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Protestors Storm Tajik President's Residence

INTERFAX reports that "several hundred refugees from the Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions of Tajikistan" sealed off the residence of Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev in Dushanbe. The protestors broke into the palace, took staff members hostage, and warned that they will not let anyone out "until order is restored to the country or President Nabiyev steps down." Nabiyev reportedly fled his residence and "is staying in the territory of the Russian garrison in Dushanbe." ITAR-TASS reports that among the demands being made, in addition to Nabiyev's resignation, is an exchange of the hostages for General Rakhim Nurullobekov, who is allegedly being held by the local KGB on suspicion of attempting to kill republican prosecutor General Nurullo Khuvaydullayev."

Yeltsin, Moldova's Snegur Meet on Dniester Conflict

The presidents of Russia and Moldova met in Moscow today, according to ITAR-TASS, to discuss "ways for the earliest advance along the road of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Moldova's Dniester region." Moldovan President Snegur supported Yeltsin's stance on the issue, pointing out that "following the cease-fire in the Dniester region conflict zone, the situation is conducive to moving forward and settling the remaining unresolved issues." Russian president Yeltsin "agreed to take upon himself a mediatory role at the stage of political dialogue which should lead to the determination of the Dniester region's status."

Nagorno-Karabakh Accepts Cease-Fire Plan

SNARK reports that the head of the Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet sent a message to CSCE representative Mario Rafaelli, in which he agreed to the CSCE 60-day cease-fire plan. Nagorno-Karabkah "is ready to order the forces of self-defence not to be the first in the offensive and to take part in the system of warning on violation of the military actions ceasing."

Armenian Supreme Soviet Appeals to Abkhazia

Yerevan Radio reports the "text" of an appeal by the Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium on the situation in Abkhazia. The Presidium expressed concern that "the strong-arm treatment of the Armenian population in Abkhazia has caused significant uneasiness and emotional stress to the people in Armenia."

Shevardnadze To Run for Georgian Parliamentary Speaker

ITAR-TASS reports the Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze announced his decision on 31 August to withdraw from the "Mir" (peace) election bloc and "to run directly for the post of speaker of the Georgian parliament." According to Shevardnadze, he "was compelled to agree to the amendment of the rules governing parliamentary elections" because "Georgians cannot help being original." Elections are scheduled for 11 October.

KGB Reportedly Planned To Assassinate Yeltsin

ITAR-TASS, citing KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, reports that the "KGB hatched an attempt on Boris Yeltsin's life during his trip to Tajikistan when he was chairman of the USSR State Building Committee." According to the article, Vladimir Kryuchkov, former chairman of the USSR Security Committee, "gave orders to the then chief of the Tajik Security Committee, General Petkel, to kill Yeltsin during his visit to the Sangtudinskaya hydropower station. Events were developing according to the plan up to the last minute," but "Yeltsin returned safely to Moscow, and the officer who refused to fulfil the order was thrown behind bars where he is incarcerated up to this day." The press service of the Tajik State Security Committee "refused to comment" on the report. A Tajik newspaper has promised to publish an interview with "a man who was charged with killing Boris Yeltsin."

Officials on Bacteriological Weapons Charges

PM3108213192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Article by Viktor Litovkin and Konstantin Eggert: "Biological Research Is of Course a Secret, But Not a Military One"]

[Text] "The fact that the Russian Government is probably not keeping the commitment it made six months ago to halt the Soviet program creating banned bacteriological weapons is causing anxiety in the United States and Britain" writes Jeffrey Smith in a front-page article published in the 31 August issue of THE WASHINGTON POST, citing high-ranking official American sources.

The article, excerpts of which have been carried by ITAR-TASS, says that acting U.S. Secretary of State Eagleburger communicated American concern during last week's London meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev. According to information from American representatives, the inability to present a detailed account of the Soviet Union's long-term use of the "Biopreparat" civilian pharmaceutical complex as a cover for a secret military bacteriological program constitutes the most serious breach of Russia's commitments.

According to Smith, the United States and Britain base their suspicions on the testimony of an unnamed "high-ranking Soviet defector."

Commenting on this situation for IZVESTIYA, a Foreign Ministry representative who wished to remain incognito said: "It is unimaginable that the president should not keep a check on such an important sphere, one connected with Russia's strategic security. However, we do have to take very seriously any statements by the Americans, as we are aware that this is a problem that creates great anxiety in the Congress. We would not wish any Congressmen to suspect a lack of sincerity on the part of Moscow when they vote to give substantial aid to Russia," the Russian diplomat stated. At the same time he did express doubt about the objectivity of Smith, who, in his words, gives a one-sided interpretation of the facts, ignoring the Russian side's explanations.

The current WASHINGTON POST article devoted to Russian bacteriological weapons is far from being the first. Two months ago, after the Russian president's visit to the American capital, correspondents Rowland Evans and Robert Novak published an article in which they also accused the Russian Federation military command of deceiving the head of state and continuing work on the creation of techniques for waging bacteriological warfare.

"It is all utter lies," we were told at the Defense Ministry's Main Directorate for Radiation, Chemical, and Bacteriological Protection, which we approached for clarification.

All work on creating bacteriological weapons, we were told, was legally banned in Russia by President Yeltsin's April Decree "On Ensuring the Implementation of International Commitments in the Sphere of Biological Weapons," and it was effectively stopped by the military back in 1975, when our country ratified the international convention banning these dreadful weapons.

As distinct from other countries, we actually have no such weapons, the military said. We are not even faced with the problem of destroying stocks of them.

"Academician Anatoliy Kuntsevich, chairman of the Russian presidential Committee on Convention-Related Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons, told IZVESTIYA that "the fact that our country has presented a detailed report to the United Nations on the defense programs that have been carried out on these questions is evidence of the sincerity of our position."

The document cites the specific formulas that we have in Russia and lists all the tests carried out with artillery shells, aerial bombs, and missiles. The test site on the island of Vozrozhdeniye in the Aral Sea, which has been closed for several years now, and the Defense Ministry's scientific research institutes in the cities of Kirov (microbiology), Sergiyev Posad (virology), and Yekaterinburg (military technical problems of antibacteriological protection) are cited.

Information about the "Biopreparat" concern, which was part of the now-closed Administration of the Microbiological Industry, whose scientific research institutes did indeed work on problems of military-related biology, was communicated in documents that were presented to the United Nations and also to the U.S. Administration on a confidential basis. The information presented there is exhaustive, Russian experts maintain.

It has been proposed at the highest level to the U.S. leadership and to its appropriate organizations that mutual verification be carried out at all facilities that the sides deem necessary. There has been no response to this to date. Why?

According to specialists, there are several reasons here. The basic reason is that it requires working with bacteria—and that could involve not just dangerous pathogens and vaccines against them, but also compounds making it possible to create new science-intensive and highly efficient techniques in bioengineering, genetics, biophysics, and other neighboring scientific disciplines. They represent state and commercial secrets.

The deadly rivalry between scientific schools and the desire on the part of competitors—by one means or another—to explain a particular problem, to prevent others from implementing their ideas, and to send them down a blind alley give rise to "leaks" of confidential information and exposures that in no way serve the cause of cooperation and the search for the truth.

And the cooperation between the microbiologists of Russia, America, and other developed countries could really be of great benefit, notably in the fight against such

a dreadful twentieth century disease as AIDS. But, as experience shows, it is sometimes more difficult for scientists to agree than for the military.

Decision To Expedite SDI Deployment Noted

PM2708150992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Foreign Military Hardware: In Laboratories and on Test Sites" rubric: "United States Intends To Speed Up"]

[Text] The United States intends to speed up the deployment of the ABM system being deployed within the SDI framework. This has been reported by H. Cooper, director of the SDI Organization. The first group of launch complexes, which are to constitute the basis of U.S. strategic defense, will be commissioned in North Dakota no later than 1995-1996 if the research work now being carried out makes sufficient progress.

The development of the ABM system is aimed at defending the United States against a "limited attack" by third countries or against an accidental missile launch from the territory of the former USSR. According to H. Cooper's forecasts, over the next decade between 20 and 24 countries will become the possessors of ICBM's, some of which are capable of carrying nuclear or chemical warheads.

The new structure of the ABM system will also make it possible to protect U.S. Armed Forces stationed abroad, allies of the United States, and states friendly to them, since it will be possible to launch the new missiles, which are designed to replace the Patriot guided surface-to-air complexes, from mobile ground launchers or from ships.

Armed Forces Unified Headquarters Begins Work

LD3108152992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—The formation of the CIS Armed Forces Unified General Headquarters (CISAFUGH) [Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1430 GMT on 31 August carries a similar report which renders the group as the "High Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces—Glavnoye Komand Ovaniye Obyedinennykh Vooruzhennykh Sil] has been completed and it is to begin its work on September 1, a spokesman of the CISAFUGH told ITAR-TASS. According to him, the CISAFUGH has been formed in accordance with the "agreement on the organization of the CISAFUGH activities during the transition period" signed in Moscow on July 6, 1992 by heads of the CIS states.

The main tasks of the CISAFUGH will be concentrated in four directions. Firstly, a unified control and centralised direction of strategical forces, improvement in its structure and keeping it in fighting trim in the interests of the CIS. Secondly, coordination of the Commonwealth states' efforts to ensure collective security, reformation of the Armed Forces, and also to work out its main doctrinal statutes. The CISAFUGH has also been entrusted with the task of carrying out timely and coordinated measures to maintain peace in the Commonwealth, the prevention of local conflicts on outer borders of the CIS and working out proposals and recommendations for the CIS heads of States Council and Collective Security Council for conducting a coordinated military policy of the Commonwealth.

The CISAFUGH continues working on the integration of defence efforts of the CIS member states.

Black Sea Commander Protests School Transfer

LD3008092192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, sent a statement to Yuriy Yarov, deputy head of the parliament of Russia, and to the ministers of defense of Russia and Ukraine. It points out that representatives of the Ministy of Defense of Ukraine in Sevastopol are aiming to unilaterally transfer to Ukraine, the Higher Naval School. In Kasatonov's words, EKSPRESS KHRONIKA reports, that is destabilizing the situation in the Black Sea Fleet and in Crimea.

Baltic Military Conference Opens in Vilnius

LD3108122792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1125 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius August 31 TASS—A conference of representatives of the military staffs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania opened here on Monday. NATO military experts also participate in the conference. Cooperation of the military staffs of the three Baltic countries and of NATO is to be discussed at the conference which is to last till September 4.

Railroad Chiefs Agree To Tighten Operations

PM0109101192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By I. Minayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Heat supply problems may be added to all our other trials and tribulations. The creation of winter fuel reserves is in jeopardy. Increasingly frequent military conflicts are causing blockages on the railroads.

And there is also an entirely prosaic reason—there is simply nothing to transport the fuel oil in.

Ordinary tank cars have become a scarce commodity. Russia is experiencing an acute shortage of tank cars, while in Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Ukraine there are more than enough of them. Local railroad workers are in no hurry to return "empties." They are also holding back grain freightcars. As a result 2 million tonnes of imported grain have accumulated at ports, and 150,000 tonnes in border station sidings. Railroad workers already have more than enough problems—disruptions in the deliveries of diesel fuel, high repair costs...

In addition to all this, CIS railroad ministries are complicating their own lives. For example, tank cars were returned from Kazakhstan only after the Russian Ministry of Railways threatened to discontinue fuel deliveries to the republic. However, Minister Gennadiy Fadeyev believes that this is no way to work. At a session of the council of CIS ministries of railways he proposed introducing severe economic penalties for failure to meet commitments. The CIS states' representatives agreed to this in principle.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Sep

LD0109060192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0508 GMT 1 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—Today's morning editions of the Moscow-based newspapers focus their attention on the continuing clashes between Abkhazian and Georgian armed formations, despite a ceasefire, and on the problems of a new academic year which begins in Russia today.

Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani arrived in Sukhumi after the August 29 talks in Sochi where a ceasefire accord was reached among the delegations of Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) reports.

The formation in future of a Russian-Georgian peace-keeping armed force to monitor lines of communication on the territory of Abkhazia was discussed, in particular, during the meeting in Sochi, Kitovani told journalists.

At the same time the minister did not rule out Armenia's involvement in the process. Nevertheless, according to the Sukhumi headquarters of the Georgian Armed Forces, fighting took place near the city of Gagra on the night of August 30 to 31, as a result of which "20 people were killed and 50 wounded on the Georgian side."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper, recalling "three-sided consultations on a settlement of the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia", writes that as a result of the meeting the participants signed a six-point protocol. Point one has it that "Georgia, Abkhazia and Russia have reaffirmed their desire to stop the bloodshed and ensure a settlement of the conflict by political means."

The TRUD newspaper, under the headline "The Russian Headquarters Warns", quotes Monday's statement by Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia.

"So far we have been guided by the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of Georgia, including the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, Dubynin said in an ITAR-TASS interview.

"If the Georgian or Abkhazian side conducts fire on civilians, an order will be issued to Russian troops to neutralise weapon emplacements", he said.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper writes about a meeting which began in Armavir on Monday between Georgy Khizha, deputy head of the Russian Government, and the chiefs of administrations and representatives of the peoples of the North Caucasus as well as Cossacks.

"The economic development of the region, the situation on the southern borders of the state and, first of all, the problem of bringing about an end to the Abkhazian conflict are the main subjects of discussion," the newspaper reports.

Participants in this meeting are to discuss and get agreement on Russia's position at the forthcoming meeting, which is to open on September 3, with the participation of President Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's Council of State, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA points out.

Noteworthy among press articles dealing with the new academic year is a summary in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of a speech by Russian Education Minister Edward Dneprov at a news conference.

Dneprov draws attention of the public to a chronic shortage of funds for education, the declining living standards of teachers and obsolete material facilities of schools. There is no heating in 29.4 per cent of Russian schools, Dneprov said. 37.9 per cent of schools have no water supply system and almost a half of schools lack a sewage system.

"For schools to survive under conditions of a market economy, the Ministry of Education has allowed school directors to lease school premises to commercial establishments and render paid educational services," the minister said.

Pointing out, however, that not all is bad in Russian education system, Dneprov said: "This year schoolchildren will for the first time have new text-books that are free from outdated ideological norms".

PRAVDA points out that, notwithstanding the difficulties, "The Russian higher school remains one of the world's most effective. By absolute indicators of the training of specialists, Russia is second only to the United States".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries a statement by General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defence, during the reception of members of the Council of the International Public Association Assembly.

"The Russian president's decree on departisation and depolitisation of the Armed Forces will be implemented undeviatingly. Let those, who cannot live without politics, engage in it, but first they should get their discharge from the ranks of the Armed Forces of Russia", Grachev said.

Yeltsin, Moldova's Snegur Begin Dniester Talks

LD0109092192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting between the presidents of Russia and Moldova began in the Kremlin today. Opening the meeting, Boris Yeltsin expressed the desire to make it as productive as the last one, which took place on 3 July. Mircea Snegur supported the stance of the head of the Russian state, pointing out that at present, following the cease-fire in the Dniester region conflict zone, the situation is conducive to moving forward and settling the remaining unresolved issues.

The meeting is tete-a-tete. An official press release will be issued after the meeting.

Yeltsin Agrees to Mediatory Role

LD0109112292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—A meeting between President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and President Mircea Snegur of the Republic of Moldova took place in the Kremlin today. The two presidents discussed ways for the earliest advance along the road of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Moldova's Dniester region.

The results of the previous accords were summed up during the meeting and satisfaction was expressed with the fact that principles, agreed upon by the two presidents, for the resolution of the conflict in the region yield tangible results: The bloodshed has been brought to an end, peace has been restored and favourable conditions have been created for a lasting political settlement, Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the president of Russia, told ITAR-TASS.

The effectiveness of the measures taken is illustrated in particular by a high appraisal of methods and results of the resolution of the conflict on the part of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

During the meeting, the presidents of Russia and Moldova emphasised the need to set about the next phase of the peace process as soon as possible: a political settlement which should be based on the determination of a special status of the Dniester region of the Republic of Moldova. President Yeltsin agreed to take upon himself a mediatory role at the stage of political dialogue which should lead to the determination of the Dniester region's status.

Grachev Warns General on Moldovan Statements

PM3108150792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Aleksandra Lagovskaya report: "General Lebed in the News Again"]

[Text] The first of a series of agreements on the withdrawal of Russian military formations from Moldova's territory, providing for the withdrawal of the 300th Airborne Regiment from Chisinau, was signed by Russia's and Moldova's defense ministers in Moscow on 26 August. During the signing of the document, Moldova's Ambassador Petr Luchinskiy expressed to Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev official perplexity concerning the latest statements by 14th Army Commander General Aleksandr Lebed, made at a news conference in Tiraspol and unambiguously interpreted by the Moldovan side as meaning that Russia has been helping, is helping, and will continue to help the Dniester region.

IZVESTIYA asked the Moldovan ambassador and Russia's defense minister for a more detailed appraisal of the general's statements.

"As a result of the confrontation," Petr Luchinskiy said, "the situation in Moldova now is such that any steps capable of driving it toward further exacerbation are very painfully perceived. Especially if these steps are undertaken by persons who really can influence the situation in the conflict zone. Gen. Lebed already has made quite a few and most contradictory statements which have caused an explosive reaction in the republic. His latest statement also is the cause of great regret. Especially as it is at odds with the incipient extrication from the armed conflict and the fragile stability achieved primarily through the efforts of the two states' leaders. Let me remind readers that interstate agreements are based on the idea of mutual respect and the preservation of Moldova's integrity. But, according to Gen. Lebed, even though his statements do contain words like 'neutrality' and 'noninterference,' it appears that Russia will continue to support separatism in Moldova. Despite the prohibition issued personally by Russia's defense minister, Gen. Lebed continues to make personal statements that obviously are contrary to President Yeltsin's position. I find this consistency shocking. As ambassador of a friendly state on whose territory the 14th Army is deployed, I find myself in a difficult position and ask myself: What is behind this?"

Ambassador Luchinskiy also stressed that "active statements by an individual general" are capable only of swelling the mistrust and suspicion toward Russian servicemen, including those who are part of peacemaking forces in the conflict zone.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, on reply to IZVESTIYA's question, noted that during his conversation with Moldova's ambassador he attempted to determine: What is the specific sign of Gen. Lebed's "separatism?" Nonetheless, the response to the Moldovan diplomat's representation was clear-cut and swift in the military fashion.

"I have issued additional written instructions to Gen. Lebed," the defense minister announced, "whose essence boils down to the impermissibility of political statements regardless of their form or the forum at which they are pronounced, be they addressed to the Moldovan leadership or to Moldova as a whole. As an army commander, he must perform only his direct duties: To maintain the army in a state of combat readiness and not to permit provocations, especially as regards the seizure of equipment and arms. I can attribute Gen. Lebed's transgressions to the fact that he is in a very complex position."

Draft on Georgia Urges Withdrawal, Disarming

LD3108140992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Armavir August 31 TASS—Georgia has to withdraw troops from Abkhazia, while Abkhazia is to disarm and disband its armed groups, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha. At a meeting with heads of Russian Caucasian republics and southern regions on Monday [31 August] he read out a draft document prepared for the coming Russian-Georgian summit in Moscow on September 3.

The document also stresses the necessity to avoid taking hostages, to protect borders, cooperate in evacuating holiday-makers and in returning hostages back home.

The conflicting sides are to respect the neutrality of Russian troops stationed on the region, according to the draft.

Chief Russian peace-maker Sergey Shoygu who is head of the Russian delegation at talks with Georgia and Abkhazia told the leaders of Caucasian highlanders that Russia is ready to continue contacts with Georgians and Abkhazians like it already did in Sochi on August 29.

Shoygu has a great peace-making experience. He brokered armistice in south Ossetia and the Dniester region of Moldova.

Highlanders, in their turn, insisted that the Russian-Georgian border should become a state one, i.e. be closed and guarded by frontier troops. They denounced the arming of illegal groups on the territory of Chechenya (which makes part of Russia). The groups are then dispatched to Abkhazia from there. They also blasted the activities of the Confederation of Caucasian Highlanders which called to render armed assistance to Abkhazia and doubted the legality of the confederation in itself.

Security Council Group Discusses Georgia

LD3108223292 Moscow Televideokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Aug 92

["Novosti" newscast video report by correspondent A. Zarayetyan, including remarks by Russian Government Vice Chairman G.S. Khizha, from Krasnodar Kray]

[Text] [Announcer] A sitting of a special interregional commission attached to the Russian Security Council has been held in Armavir.

[Zarayetyan] All aspects of Russia's positions at the forthcoming meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze for settling the armed conflict in Abkhazia, which is to be held in Moscow on 3 September, were studied in detail at the conference. The main provisions deal with a cease-fire, the withdrawal of troops by the Georgian side, and the disbanding of all armed formations by the Abkhaz side.

The issue relating to the integrity of Russia's borders with the Transcaucasus was subject of a detailed discussion. This problem was of great concern to the representatives of the administration of Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, Rostov Oblast, and also the leaders of the Northern Caucasian republics.

The recent statement by the Confederation of Mountain Peoples was roundly condemned by all participants in the conference without exception. As you know, this document contained an appeal to the Northern Caucasus peoples to declare war on Georgia and to pronounce all people of Georgian nationality on the territory of Northern Caucasus as hostages.

The issue of how to stop weapons getting from Abkhazia into bordering Russian territories was discussed in detail.

[Khizha] Armed illegal formations are needed neither on the territory of Abkhazia, nor, even more so, on the territory of Russia. That's why they should be disarmed—naturally, disarmed on the territory of Abkhazia. All crossings and passages will be closed on both sides, and all weapons should be laid down there—on the territory of Abkhazia—and on no account should they get back, so to speak, to Russia.

[Zarayetyan] In conclusion, I must add that not a single representative of the Chechen republic attended the conference.

Military Command Protests Sukhumi Shooting

LD2808214092 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The Russian Military Command has protested action by Georgian guardsman in the city of Sukhumi. The Georgians opened fire on Russian units as a result of which four Army men were wounded. The Russian command warned the Georgians that in case the incident

were repeated, Georgian fire would be suppressed. Russian television feels the incident indicates that some units of the Georgian Army refused to obey the State Council and its chairman, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Georgians Warned of 'Retaliatory Strikes'

LD0109110592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Statement by Nikolay Medvedev, head of the Russian Defense Ministry press center]

[Text] The leadership of Georgia has accused Russian troops stationed in Abkhazia of taking part in combat operations against Georgian armed formations, as a result of which there allegedly are a large number of dead and wounded on the Georgian side.

The Russian Federation Defense Ministry categorically denies this kind of false fabrication and is submitting a strong protest to the leadership of Georgia. Russian troops on the territory of Abkhazia are at their permanent stations, serving to defend the military garrisons and other Army installations and also Army sanitoria.

Despite the fact that certain of these facilities, including the Army laboratory in Sukhumi, are being systematically shelled for the purposes of provocation by Georgian formations, the Russian troops are not returning fire and are continuing to maintain neutrality. Should the armed provocations against military facilities and Russian servicemen continue, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry reserves the right to deliver retaliatory strikes against attacking armed formations, regardless of their nationality.

Grachev: Ukraine's Removal of Officer 'Illegal'

LD3008195592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has declared illegal and not liable to execution the order of Ukraine's Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov on the removal of Vladimir Denisenko from his post as head of the Nakhimov Black Sea Naval College. Grachev also assessed the actions of Ukraine's Defense Ministry with regard to the two naval colleges of Sevastopol which were resubordinated to the Republican Defense Ministry as unilateral and not in accordance with the spirit of the Yalta accords. Russia's defense minister announced the Russian side's intention to take the necessary measures ensuring accords reached previously.

The commander of the Black Sea Fleet has been instructed to take measures to stabilize the situation in military collectives.

Agreement Signed on Gas Deliveries to Ukraine

LD3108084192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Belyayev]

[Text] The governments of Russia and Ukraine have concluded an agreement on gas deliveries to Ukraine and on its transit across the territory of Ukraine to Moldova and other European states. An agreement has also been signed on the price of natural gas and the cost of gas transportation services.

The Russian concern "Gasprom" and the Ukrainian concern "Ukrgasprom" are charged with the implementation of the concluded agreements. The former has powerful gas-extracting enterprises, while the latter—a ramified system of gas pipelines via which Russian gas is supplied to European consumers. The interaction of these two concerns will be governed by an economic agreement which they were offered to conclude.

The intergovernmental agreement on deliveries and transit of gas makes the Russian and Ukrainian concerns economically quite independent. At the same time, the document notes that the gas delivered for transit transportation remains Russian property and cannot be redistributed among Ukrainian consumers. If Russia, through Ukraine's fault, fails to fulfill export deliveries of fuel, the latter will compensate in hard currency the losses incurred by the Russian side.

The agreement envisages mutual deliveries of materials and supplies to ensure proper maintenance of gas facilities and development of gas extraction and transportation. The document pays much attention to the problem of perfecting measuring instruments needed to determine the qualitative characteristics and volume of the transported gas.

Early this year, the governments of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus decided to set up a gas industry joint-stock society. All countries of the Commonwealth (except Turkmenistan), as well as the Baltic republics and Georgia, have applied for membership in it. The setting up of this joint-stock society is to be preceded by corresponding intergovernmental agreements. The first one—between Russia and Ukraine—has now been concluded.

Japanese Foreign Minister Talks With Kozyrev

OW0109102392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 1 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe held talks with his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, on Tuesday [1 Sep] to talk Moscow into recognizing Japan's ownership of four Russian-occupied islands off northeastern Japan.

At the outset of the meeting, Kozyrev reportedly expressed his desire to see great strides in resolving the decades-old

territorial dispute over the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets.

"Arrangements for a visit to Japan by President (Boris Yeltsin) is entering the final phase," Kozyrev was quoted as saying. "The era for domestic consumption is over, and now is the time for us to initiate active diplomatic business that would create a real turning point for the substantial and realistic relations between Japan and Russia."

Watanabe is now in Russia to set the stage for Yeltsin's visit to Japan September 13 to 16.

The former Soviet Union seized the islands off Hokkaido in the closing days of World War II. Tokyo maintains the return of the islands is a prerequisite for massive financial assistance to Russia and conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty.

The Japanese foreign minister will likely repeat Japan's stand that it will be flexible on the timing and method of the return of the islands if Russia recognizes they are integral part of Japan.

Watanabe will sort out his stance for a tete-a-tete on Wednesday with Yeltsin, Japanese officials said.

After the foreign ministerial meeting, the two countries issued a press statement pledging efforts to negotiate a "mutually acceptable" settlement of the territorial issue based on principles of law and justice.

Notes 'Dissatisfaction' Over Remarks

PM3108153192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 5

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "M. Watanabe: If Russia Does Not Return Shikotan and Habomai, It Will Break Its Promises"]

[Text] On the eve of his visit to Moscow, the Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Michio Watanabe has, according to an ITAR-TASS report, expressed "open dissatisfaction" in connection with the reproach made by President Boris Yeltsin, who considers that "Tokyo could display even greater support for the Russian reforms."

M. Watanabe listed all services rendered by Tokyo in its humanitarian and financial encouragement of Russia's switch to the market, reminding us about the granting of credits, as well as of subsidies for opening the Center for Assisting the Former USSR's Nuclear Scientists. He crowned all his arguments for the rebuke's illegitimacy with an emotional question: "How should we interpret the claim that Japan is not contributing?"

The Japanese side's arguments are fairly weighty; the minister considered that it was not proper to equate Japan and Germany in their role as Russia's financial guardians, as the Germans have, for objective reasons, to pay a higher price—after all Moscow assisted them in unifying their country. Moreover, the minister reminded us, it was Germany and not Japan which attacked the USSR. But the USSR carried out an attack on Japan, as Watanabe said, in violation of the bilateral pact of neutrality, taking 600,000 prisoners of war, of which 50,000 perished, and also "illegally occupied our northern territories."

The culmination of the press conference can be taken to be Watanabe's statement, which takes the form of mild or extreme diplomatic pressure—depending on your point of view—on the eve of the Russian president's visit to Japan. The minister warned: If Russia does not return Shikotan and Habomai, as the Joint Soviet-Japanese Declaration of 1956 stipulates, then it will retain the reputation of a country which "breaks its promises."

If Russia does not return the two islands, "this will mean that they will be able to break any other Japanese-Russian treaty at any moment that suits them." An unequivocal warning followed later that, as long as the dispute over the islands is not resolved, we should not expect either Japanese capital investments or broad economic cooperation.

"The Japanese Government is continuing to adhere to its policy of refusing to give wide-ranging assistance to Moscow," REUTER reports from Tokyo. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to comment on the KYODO agency's report that officials in Tokyo came to the conclusion that the problem of the Southern Kurils cannot be solved in an accelerated manner, which is why the country's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa must at the beginning prepare the ground so as to encourage this, for which a visit to Moscow would be desirable.

Commenting on M. Watanabe's statement for IZVESTIYA, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Fridrikhovich Kunadze did not start to dramatize the situation: For him there is nothing new in the Japanese minister's words. What he is doing is "summing up" Tokyo's basic demands, and as concerns the form chosen to do this, it is meant for "domestic consumption."

The reference to Moscow's obligations vis-a-vis the 1956 declaration is also no "discovery." It is nevertheless relevant to remind people, G. Kunadze stated, that Russia has affirmed its "loyalty to all international agreements concluded by the USSR in the past without exception."

As concerns the visit by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to Moscow, we can fully expect it to take place, as diplomacy espouses fully the principle of reciprocity. "The Russian side hopes that the President Yeltsin's visit to Japan in September will start off a process which will ultimately lead to the territorial problem being resolved," G. Kunadze noted.

However, the president is well informed about Tokyo's contribution in assisting the Russian reforms, but is

balancing the scale of this assistance with the unalterable fact that Japan is today the second economic superpower after the United States.

Working Group Created for Yeltsin's Japan Trip

LD2808102692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Aug (TASS)—A working group has been created on the instruction of the Russian Government for preparing the forthcoming visit of President Yeltsin to Japan. It will work out programmes of production, scientific and technological cooperation with Japan. The working group includes officials from the ministry of foreign economic relations, the ministry of economy, research institutions and the military-industrial complex.

"Yeltsin's visit to Japan will not be confined to the signing of ordinary agreements on avoiding double taxation and protecting investments," Andrey Kushnerenko, deputy head of the department of export strategy and support at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, told ITAR-TASS. According to Kushnerenko, the Russian side prepared and sent to Tokyo with Mikhail Poltoranin, deputy chairman of government and minister of information and press, 18 plans of cooperation in the sphere of science and technology. The Japanese partners accepted six of them and are ready to develop them into documents, which may be signed during the summit visit.

The projects deal with nuclear power engineering, the development of new materials, the isotope separation, in which the Japanese have the most advanced technology, the use of carrier rockets which are phased out in Russia, space exploration, fibre optics and environmental protection. According to Kushnerenko, not all the planned documents are sure to be coordinated before the visit begins, but the joint work on the proposed subjects is intended for a long perspective.

It is noteworthy that the Russian working group includes financiers and lawyers. This is explained by the fact that Tokyo and Moscow are willing to draw into the implementation of the projects non-state sources of financing, which are not to be influenced by the current political situation and territorial disputes.

Deputies Favor Return of Kuril Islands to Japan

LD2808220192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1448 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk August 28 TASS—Of all northerners, most probably, residents of the Kuril Islands are living in the worst economic conditions, Russian Deputies Gleb Yakunin, Sergey Yushenkov and Lev Ponomoryov told Sakhalin journalists. The deputies had just completed their three-day visit to Shikotan, Kunashir and Iturup Islands.

Representatives of the Russian Parliament's democratic wing said that they will seek widespread help for residents of the Kuril archipelago from Yegor Gaydar's Government. But unlike political opponents in the Supreme Soviet, who had earlier been to the South Kuril Islands, they favoured the necessity of transferring Shikotan and islands of Khabomai under Japan's jurisdiction "in keeping with norms of morality and the international law". According to them, the transfer of the islands may take from seven to forty years.

Replying to a question of an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the vice-chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet's Freedom of Conscience, Religion, Mercy and Charity Committee, Gleb Yakunin, expressed his point of view: Boris Yeltsin should not pay a visit to Japan now. According to the deputy, such activities should yield highly productive results. It will not be possible to resolve territorial problem in its true sense for the next one or two years when the country is gripped with the economic crisis and the political instability.

The deputies left the Sakhalin province today.

Burbulis Ends Official Visit to Turkey

LD2808224892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis' official visit to Turkey has ended. Today he had a meeting with the mayor of Istanbul. Burbulis took part in a sitting of the Turkish-Russian Business Cooperation Council. An exchange of views was held on the possibility of making economic ties between the two countries more vigorous and on specific ways to develop them. Also today the Russian delegation left for Moscow by air.

Visit 'Quite Successful'

LD2908123692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0613 GMT 29 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 29 TASS—Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary to the president of the Russian Federation, returned here from Istanbul on Friday [28 August] night at the close of his four-day visit to Turkey.

In response to journalists' questions before departure from Istanbul, Burbulis described the visit as "quite successful", recalling that it was made in connection with the 500th anniversary of the establishment of Russo-Turkish inter-state relations. The anniversary falls due in August.

At the Istanbul airport, on the final day of the visit, Gennadiy Burbulis and Cavit Caglar, Turkish minister of state, initialled the text of a declaration of friendship

and partnership between Russia and Turkey. The declaration will be signed at summit level during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit.

A protocol on regular Russo-Turkish consultations on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international problems was also signed during the visit. The two sides reached an understanding on a possible increase in the supply of Russian natural gas to Turkey by 2,000 million cubic metres a year beginning from 1996 and on a number of matters concerning bilateral cooperation in the fields of transport, the power industry, and defence industry conversion.

At a farewell ceremony Caglar referred to the visit as "highly constructive and positive from the viewpoint of the development of relations between our two countries". He attached much importance to the initialling of the text of the declaration, upon the signing of which, as the Turkish minister of state put it, "Russo-Turkish relations will be elevated to a higher stage".

Burbulis attended a meeting of the Turkish-Russian Business Council in Istanbul on Friday afternoon. During the session he emphasised the existence of a favourable "historical and political basis for the expansion of economic relations". He assured that "to Russia, relationships with the Turkish economic community are a priority for many years ahead".

The Russian state secretary also said that "Russia will make every effort to bring trade turnover with Turkey up to 10,000 million dollars a year by the year 2000", which will be almost 50 per cent more than the current level.

Interviewed on Visit, Ties

OW3108152092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary for the Russian president, by diplomatic correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon conclusion of his visit to Turkey Gennadiy Burbulis, State Secretary for the Russian President, gave an interview to IF [INTERFAX]'s special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov who accompanied the Russian delegation.

DP [Diplomatic Panorama]: What did the recent Russian-Turkish talks demonstrate?

G. BURBULIS: The main thing is that these talks reaffirmed the vigorous striving of both countries to substantially expand their relations in all directions. During their previous meetings the leaders of the two nations, B. Yeltsin and S. Demirel, came to the unanimous conclusion that relations between Russia and Turkey pose a most important factor not only in the Black Sea region, but also in the world at large. Now their agreements will be materialized.

The documents signed during our visit and our meetings with experts have shown that Russia and Turkey can work together to make a contribution to the development of such essential industries, as power engineering, construction and transport. Concrete agreements were reached on all these issues.

DP: In the past 500 years our relations have developed unevenly, but the spirit of regional rivalry was always present. On what basis will our relations develop in the future?

G. BURBULIS: I would single out three major principles of furthering bilateral ties: 1. The principle of creative historic memory. The 500-year-old history of our relationship has not been simple, indeed. It contained not only the spirit of relentless rivalry, but also that of constructive cooperation. We must carefully analyse the history of our relations and realize that in the world today Russia and Turkey are two states ready to meet each other halfway. We lived under the burden of imperial ambitions for centuries: beginning with the Ottoman and ending with the Soviet empire. However historic memory is effective only when it is focused on the future. We are abandoning rivalry and adopting the spirit of constructive cooperation.

2. Such cooperation is based largely on the second principle: a principle of solitary reformation. The leaders of our two countries share a strong desire to consolidate democracy and achieve economic prosperity. The conditions of our development are similar in many respects. With the understanding of our common striving for internal reforms we find it easier to engage in negotiations, because there is no need to resort to cunning and conceal one's difficulties. May of our difficulties are similar. Moreover, some of them can be overcome only by joint efforts, and both Turkey and Russia understand it perfectly. We'll greatly facilitate solution to our internal problems by remaining pragmatic.

3. And this is the third principle of our relationship: the principle of inspired pragmatism. We realize that Russia and Turkey have to satisfy as soon as possible the basic requirements of human beings: we must give food to our people, ensure housing and jobs for them; besides, we must make a contribution to world civilization by building democratic states on our soil.

If we try to gain petty concessions or one-sided advantages, we'll drown in the utilitarian approach. If we abandon these principles for the sake of momentary results, we'll derail the main thing: reforms in our countries which bring a new relationship.

That is why we didn't embark on the old Soviet road: "we'll get a new friend by increasing gas supplies". We embarked upon a new road: we made it possible to work together to strengthen and modernize Russia's fuel extracting industry which will lead to strengthening Turkey's power industry. I could mention many such examples.

DP: You travel abroad increasingly often to hold important negotiations there. Does this reflect your dissatisfaction with the work of Russia's Foreign Ministry? Does it mean an independent foreign policy pursued by the State Secretary for the Russian President?

G. BURBULIS: By no means. I don't pursue any independent foreign policy, and have no desire to do so, because there is no need for this. There should be one foreign policy followed by the State of Russia, and all who are concerned in this must apply their entire professionalism and knowledge to make this country's foreign policy effective and understandable to the people of Russia.

Russia's foreign policy must guard our strategic interests in the world community; it must be understandable and convincing not only to our supporters, but also to our political opponents both within and beyond Russia. This is what I strive for.

Government To Increase Gas Supply to Turkey

OW2608213192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of Russia and Turkey have agreed to increase the supply of Russian gas to Turkey by 2 billion cubic meters starting 1996. This statement was made by the Russian Presidential State Secretary, Gennadiy Burbulis, who heads the Russian delegation at the negotiations with Turkey at today's press conference on the results of his visit to Ankara.

Within the time left before 1996, the two countries are to modernize existing and built new gas pipelines, including one which will be constructed under the Caspian Sea. Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are likely to join the project.

During the negotiations, the two sides agreed to intensify Turkish construction companies' activities in Russia. At present, the volume of work done by them reached $1.5 billion. Russia and Turkey also reached an agreement to open a ferry line and to develop cooperation in air and automobile transportation. A bilateral commission for transportation has been set up to design projects in these areas.

The parties failed to discuss conversion in its full extent. The volume of Russian arms' sales to Turkey is under specification yet. "The agreement on arms sales will be justified both politically and economically", said Gennadiy Burbulis.

Russia and Turkey decided to hold a conference of financial experts in Moscow on August 31 to discuss the status of credits, taxation policy, implementation of investment programs and other issues.

According to an IF [INTERFAX] report, Turkey is prepared to grant over $1 billion in credits to Russia which totals 75% of Turkey's credits to foreign countries.

Economic Talks With Lithuania Begin 28 Aug

OW2808160792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1352 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of the Russian and Lithuanian governments have begun their talks in Moscow today in order to address the issues relating to the countries mutual accounting procedures, trade conditions, establishment of trade representations, and bilateral economic cooperation in 1993.

Following a joint plenary session, the parties will divide into three working groups to address the above issues.

The current meeting is the first in the series of bilateral talks on the level of expert groups staged on the initiative of the Russian acting premier, Yegor Gaydar.

Troops Start To Withdraw From Lithuania

LD2808222392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Army has started the withdrawal of its units from Lithuania. The first military installation has been handed over to the Service for the Protection of the Kray of Lithuania in Klaipeda. On leaving the Russians left the whole military cantonment, equipped in accordance with the requirements, to the Lithuanian Army.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Latvia

LD3108002792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Latvian Internal Affairs Minister Ziedonis Cevirs and Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin have signed a treaty on mutual cooperation in fighting crime and guaranteeing citizens' rights, our correspondent reports. Individual articles of the treaty provide for exchanges of information and programs of action. The treaty also envisages the arranging of cooperation in training and improving the qualifications of personnel. Both sides have agreed to provide help in eliminating the consequences of natural disasters and catastrophes.

Economic Talks Held With Estonia

LD2808024692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Text] Economic talks between Estonia and Russia were held today in Moscow. On 2 September, Tiit Vahi, head of the Estonian Government, is meeting with Yegor Gaydar, acting prime minister of Russia, reported Economics Minister Olari Taal to the Baltic News Service. The ministers of economics will also participate at the meeting.

At the economic talks held today, Russia offered as a surprise, in the mutual debts part, the so-called zero option, or the idea to regard all the debts as quashed, Olari Taal said. Likewise the representatives of Russia affirmed that Russia will (?not begin) to demand a participation of Estonia in paying off the former USSR's foreign debt. In the words of the economics minister, the Russian side accepted the principle according to which disputes between the states concerning mutual debts must not hamper development of enterprises.

At the talks the Estonian-Russian exchange of goods for 1993 was also discussed. In the words of Olari Taal, the Russian Government accepted the proposal by the Estonian Government to speed up talks on concluding a free trade agreement. Taal expressed the hope that the agreement may become ready for signing for the meeting of the prime ministers. The 1993 economic agreement still requires serious coordination, as the ideologies of concluding a trade agreement are in some respects different. It was agreed on the opening as soon as possible of reciprocal trade representations. The economic talks in Moscow will continue on 27 August in working groups.

Minister on G-7 Finance Ministers' Meeting

LD2908155892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2230 GMT 28 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris, 29 Aug—The G-7 deputy finance ministers of the world's industrialized nations held a special session on 28 August. The main point on the agenda was the payment of Russia's part of the foreign debt of the former USSR. Petr Aven, Russian foreign economic relations minister, who took part in this meeting, talked about what was discussed at the meeting in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

With our Western colleagues we have begun preparing a long-term agreement on the deferment of Russia's part of the former USSR's foreign debt, P. Aven said. This agreement is a new step in the financial relations between Russia and its Western creditors, because previously our links were based on short-term agreements, and we met our main creditors every 90 days. Now we are dealing with a long-term agreement, whose technical nuances we have elaborated over the last two days. As yet it is too early to give further details as the work is just beginning. However, even during this first meeting, we discussed many features of the mechanism of payments.

In our country there is a lack of understanding about what the West is giving us, the minister continued. Many say that the West is not giving us anything. The West certainly is not giving us a lot of "new" money—credits—and therefore the main direction of financial cooperation with our partners today is the deferment of payments relating to Russia's foreign debt. Of course, the West's stance is determined by the progress of economic reforms in Russia, and I have to say that even over the course of this year alone it has become increasingly easy to talk to our creditors. Not only because the Russian Government itself views the progress of reforms as satisfactory, but also because our contracting parties—the International Monetary Fund, the G-7 finance ministers, and experts from leading world banks—hold this view.

On Friday a meeting also took place between P. Aven and Michel Sapin, the French state minister for economy, finance, and the budget. We discussed many matters relating to bilateral financial and economic relations, primarily the traditional matter of granting credits to Russia which were allocated previously in connection with Soviet-French and Russian-French agreements, the Russian minister said. Finally, we managed to agree on lifting the freeze on investment credit amounting to 1.5 billion francs, which is intended for financing projects in the chemical industry, ferrous metallurgy, and the production of technological equipment. Apart from this, an agreement was reached on unfreezing the last part of the credit of 1990, 780 million francs of which has not yet been used. Contracts for the chemical industry and metallurgy have been concluded amounting to about 500 million francs of this sum, and the Russian Government intends to allocate the remainder to the needs of farmers, the minister said in conclusion.

Grachev Asserts Separation of Army, Politics

PM0109133592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 92 p 1

[Report under the "Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center Reports" rubric: "Army General Pavel Grachev: 'Whoever Wants To Engage in Politics, Let Him Remove His Shoulder Boards'"]

[Text] On 29 August this year Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, received council members of the "Assambleya" international public association—an organization whose aim is to unite and coordinate the efforts of all public movements and formations struggling to step up servicemen's social protection.

"Assambleya" includes, for example, the "Shchit" union, the Moscow Independent Trade Union of Servicemen, the "Soldiers' Mothers of Russia" movement, the "Chernobyl" union, and others. Army General Pavel Grachev expressed a readiness for dialogue and cooperation with all those concerned about the fate of the Russian Army. But the excessive politicization of certain public organizations which are seeking to draw servicemen into their ranks is making it difficult to arrange this cooperation. Whereas we used to turn a blind eye to the fact that people in military uniform were making political statements into microphones at rallies, tough measures will now be taken. "The Russian president's decrees on the departyization and depoliticization of the Armed Forces will be fulfilled rigorously," Army General Pavel Grachev declared. "Whoever cannot manage without politics, let him engage in it. But first he is obliged to discharge himself from the ranks of the Russian Armed Forces."

It is from these positions that the Russian defense minister intends to assess the activity of various organizations of the Army community, including the Officers' Assemblies.

"I am not against the Officers' Assemblies," Army General Pavel Grachev said. "They have existed and will exist in the Russian Army at the level of the regiment and the separate unit. But they are not political debating societies. How the regimental collective is to live and to get along together, how to provide the garrison with everything it needs, how to help one another—these are the questions that they must tackle."

As regards the independent trade union of servicemen, the minister emphasized that for the Russian Armed Forces this is an illegal organization, and the appropriate attitude will be taken toward it. "I know that I will attract critical fire toward myself, and people will say that Grachev is stifling the shoots of democracy in the Army," the minister said. "But, as I see it, democracy means, above all, respect for the law. If the Army does not respect it, then what do we want of society?"

Other questions of relations between the Russian Defense Ministry and public organizations which make it their aim to step up servicemen's social protection were also discussed. Their activity must be conducted within the framework of the existing legislation, the Russian Federation Constitution, the Russian president's decrees, and the defense minister's orders.

Grachev Orders Support for Servicemen's Housing

PM0109115192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center report: "For Those Without Housing"]

[Text] Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister and Army General, has issued an Order "On Additional Measures To Finance the Construction and Acquisition of Housing for Servicemen."

The order was issued in execution of Russian Federation Presidential Decree No. 796, dated 21 August, which bears the same title. The defense minister instructs the relevant chiefs and persons in authority to ensure the implementation of the presidential decree and demands that they take all necessary measures to carry out the Russian Federation Defense Ministry 1992 plan for the commissioning of housing. It is intended to submit applications to the executive organs of local authorities for the acquisition of apartment blocks and individual apartments within the allocations earmarked for this purpose. Homeless officers, NCO's, and extended-term servicemen who have 10 or more years of exemplary, uninterrupted service to their credit and who have joined a housing construction cooperative or are building their own individual homes will be provided with nonrepayable financial aid worth 75 percent of the cost of cooperative housing or a bank credit obtained for the construction of an individual house.

New Weapons, Aircraft Displayed at Air Show

LD2808100492 Moscow Radio Moscow in French 1600 GMT 26 Aug 92

[Excerpt] For one week, civilian and combat planes and helicopters displayed their abilities in the skies near Moscow, while some 300 Russian and foreign firms displayed their latest products to visitors at a huge airport near the town of Zhukovskiy. Some of the aircraft had radical new designs suggestive of flying saucers. The Russian aerospace industry presented the TU-160 strategic bomber, which carries air-to-surface missiles, the IL-102 ground attack aircraft, the SU-27M fighter aircraft, and many specialized aircraft for sports, fire fighting, and agriculture. Visitors were able to see the C-300 antiaircraft rocket launcher, which has interested foreign specialists for years but until now had been classified as a top secret weapon. Its designer, Boris Kodriatsev, describes the potential of the C-300 unit:

[Begin Kodriatsev recording in Russian, fading into French translation] On the whole, we have reason to believe that the system is superior to the American Patriot system. It also has the advantage of being able to fly anywhere, while Patriots can only fly in the direction of the orientation of the launcher. [end recording]

Among new products there is the MIG-31, nicknamed the mini-AWACS in comparison with the famous American reconnaissance aircraft. The chief designer, Rostislav Beliakov, describes its potential:

[Begin Beliakov recording in Russian, fading into French translation] It has advantages as a weapon: It has a very advanced detection system allowing it to sweep a large beam, 900-km wide, for four aircraft. [end recording]

According to well-informed sources, (Obovono) Export and Avia Export signed a number of agreements on the supply of military aircraft and equipment during the MosAeroshow-92 exhibition. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Offers Business Training to Officers

PM2708131792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "B.N. Yeltsin Announces Presidential Recruitment of Reserve Officers for Business Training"]

[Excerpt] This news will certainly seem unexpected to many people, and maybe even to some extent sensational. Russian President B.N. Yeltsin has issued an ordinance on presidential recruitment for business training of officers discharged from the Russian Army. The aim is to prepare a cohort of specialists capable of working in the business sphere in general and in branches of U.S. and other foreign companies in Russia in particular. It is planned to conduct the training in the business school of the International University.

The ordinance instructs the Russian Federation Defense Ministry (Army General P. Grachev) to select 100 candidates to take part in a competition, and instructs the International University to make a competitive selection of 50 students from among these 100 candidates with the participation of the Russian Defense Ministry (the competition is directed by G.E. Burbulis, state secretary to the Russian Federation president).

The Russian Ministry of Finance is instructed to allocate 100 million rubles from the reserves of the program for the social adaptation of servicemen discharged from the Russian Army to the International University by 1 September 1992 to pay 50 officers for two years of training, board, and lodging.

It is an interesting undertaking. Of course, 50 future businessmen from among the officers is a drop in the bucket for Russia. But in this case we should probably see not only the purely organizational and practical aspect of the very fact of a special presidential recruitment but also a certain symbolism.

What evidently lies behind this is a desire to emphasize the understanding that the state power and the Russian president himself have of the importance and acuteness of the question of the social adaptation of officers discharged into the reserve. People who have devoted their youth to serving the homeland and who are discharged while still in their prime deserve not to end up on the margins of society. Particularly as they have sufficient intellect, ability to work with people, and desire to benefit Russia. [passage omitted]

Briefing on Security Law, Operation 'Trawl'

PM0109083592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Mostovshchikov: "Security Ministry Henceforth Will 'Trawl' Russia on Legal Basis"]

[Text] On 27 August Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Defense and Security Committee, held a briefing in the Russian Security Ministry building. The journalists were told of the introduction of the Law "On federal organs of state security." Russian Security Ministry spokesmen provided the press with information on the results of Operation "Trawl" in Russia.

Andrey Chernenko, head of the Russian Security Ministry public relations center, in conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent, used the following image to epitomize the law: "Lubyanka minus the KGB." Obviously, what this means is that the Russian Security Ministry, henceforth an organization whose activities are regulated by the law, is no longer the KGB although it remains on the Lubyanka.

What is new about the Russian Security Ministry, according to Andrey Chernenko, is that Russian state security organs are now prohibited from carrying out political investigations. The legislator designated only the following series of duties: counterintelligence, military counterintelligence, protection of state borders, combating corruption and terrorism, and protection of the state's economic interests. The ministry has no right to exceed its authority and any illegal activity by it will be stopped, on condition, of course, that this activity is detected and proved by someone.

The announcement of the introduction of the new document was accompanied by a Russian Security Ministry report on the first success in work on a legal footing. The ministry reported to the press on the results of Operation "Trawl," which had not been publicized before. Its purpose was to stop the illegal export of timber, metals, and ammunition from Russia, in short, activity that is commonly known as "selling the homeland."

The main figure was that during the period Russia was "trawled", valuables worth 5 billion rubles [R] were

returned to the state. Compare this with the Russian Security Ministry's total annual budget of little more than R6 billion. Clearly it is a success. Perhaps with the introduction of the new law the Russian Security Ministry will even make a profit, as a result of which it will fit snugly into the system of market relations.

KGB Reportedly Planned To Assassinate Yeltsin

LD0109131492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—"The local (Tajik—ITAR-TASS note) press reports that KGB hatched an attempt on Boris Yeltsin's life during his trip to Tajikistan when he was chairman of the USSR State Building Committee," the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes on Tuesday [1 September], referring to the IMA-PRESS news agency.

"Vladimir Kryuchkov (the former chairman of the USSR Security Committee—ITAR-TASS) gave orders to the then chief of the Tajik Security Committee, General Petkel, to kill Yeltsin during his visit to the Sangtudinskaya hydropower station.

"Events were developing according to the plan up to the last minute, but the shot did not sound. Yeltsin returned safely to Moscow, and the officer who refused to fulfil the order, was thrown behind bars where he is incarcerated up to this day," the newspaper notes.

Commenting on this report by the Tajik press, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports that the press service of the Tajik State Security Committee refused to comment on this information. "We were told that the Tajik committee has not discussed this issue, and they cannot confirm or refute the report.

"We learnt that a Tajik newspaper will soon publish an interview with a man who was charged with killing Boris Yeltsin," the newspaper claims.

Popov on Struggles Within Russian Government

OW0109141192 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1855 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Studio interview with Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov, former mayor of Moscow, by German Solomatin; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Solomatin] Good morning Gavriil Kharitonovich, I am happy to see you in good health, and I hope you did not spend your holidays among the icebergs, but in some warm place. Tell me, what have you been occupied with since you left the post of mayor of the city of Moscow?

[Popov] I have been occupied with two main issues. The first is the problems connected with the Russian Democratic Reform Movement, and despite the various difficulties we were able to register it as an official organization. And my second job is president of the International University. There was no shortage of work in either place.

[Solomatin] Tell me Gavriil Kharitonovich, your article August '91 in IZVESTIYA attracted a huge amount of attention. What was that in connection with?

[Popov] You know, most probably you and I and dozens of other people who have given a lot of time and effort to the struggle for the democratic version of our development, have now found ourselves in a complicated situation in thinking about the situation in the country, about the past and the future. I have also found myself in a similar situation, and have thought about this intensely all these past months, and in some measure this article should solve two problems. It should explain to me—and I think to many like-minded people—what is happening in the country. And the second issue is, of course, what shall we do next.

[Solomatin] Gavriil Kharitonovich, you say this revolution is equal in meaning to the October Revolution and the missed opportunities devoted to the revolution. What happened in August of 1991, was there a revolution at all?

[Popov] I am not saying that in the article. I just bring together various opinions on the issue, and there are various interpretations about August. I would say that there are two prevailing interpretations. The first of these is: The democrats have taken power and everything is progressing well. It is enough to hear the interviews given by our government to hear that. The second is: The democrats have taken power and everything is falling apart, everything is going poorly. In my article I tried to argue a different concept because in the two versions, the common point is that the democrats have taken power. In the article I tried to expound a different understanding of the situation—that the democrats did not take power. Starting from this premise, I then tried to analyze the situation.

[Solomatin] You say that power at the moment is in the hands of a coalition, the democrats with the reformer-apparatchiks. And so the impression created is such that Boris Nikolayevitch Yeltsin, the president of Russia, is giving more and more preference to the apparatchiks, and because of this some hotheads within the democrat camp say that he is betraying those who helped him win the elections. What is your opinion on this?

[Popov] First of all I would say that one must understand the president's position. The president went to the polls with a promise to carry out reforms in the country. That was the general problem that he has to solve, and of course, he would like to solve the problem with the strength of the people who helped him win the elections. And here is another situation, what if it turns out that he cannot carry out the reforms with the strength of these people, what then must the president do? The president then has two options. The first is to create a coalition based upon which reforms can be carried out. Even a third option is possible and this is to base himself on the

strength of the apparatus that is ready to carry out and continue the reforms. [preceding two sentences as heard]

I think that the president had decided on the coalition from the beginning, which was a realistic decision, but now I concur with you, as the experience of the past year has shown that the democrats were not able to become a real power which could influence the course of development. Therefore my appraisal is that power is not held by the coalition, power now is in the hands of the nomenklatura. All the arguments going on at present are not arguments between the democrats and the nomenklatura. These, I would say, are arguments about the division of power between the various groups of the nomenklatura—the more radical, the less radical, the military industrial complex, and so on. They will continue, but the essence remains that the democrats do not hold power. What is power in general? Power consists of a minimum of four elements. The first element necessary for power is—[corrects himself] maybe even five more likely—legislation. We both know full well that even the simple attempt to put private ownership of land on paper, failed to pass. Power, is the power of the soviets in the parliament. We do not need big theories to understand that in the parliament, at the Congress, and in the majority of the soviets, the democrats do not have the majority. As for executive power, here again, the significant number [word indistinct] about the apparatus, without argument. The significant number of leaders are the same old leaders who have now begun to work.

[Solomatin] Pardon me, Gavriil Kharitonovich, in your article you called us, the mass media, the fourth power. What sort of a power are we if we depend entirely on the state budget? Perhaps we are an instrument of power?

[Popov] I am absolutely convinced that no version of 20th century democracy can exist without the fourth element of power. The three elements of power are what were left to us by the 18th century, its highest achievement, and it has fully recurred. Modern day democracy is incomprehensible without today's fourth power. However, you are absolutely correct in that this fourth power—as with all the other powers—is under the regime, and it cannot be said that it can act in any way it wants. There is a struggle going on to become, and be, the bearer of the democratic beginning. Then in summing up, I would say, that if real power is in the hands of the nomenklatura, and if the nomenklatura has started, and is carrying out reforms, then the question arises as to what are the democrats doing when they find themselves in such a practical situation, and in which we all find ourselves?

[Solomatin] Gavriil Kharitonovich, perhaps the last question. Who, out of the available political figures, do you see in the post of the president of Russia? Rutskoy, Volskiy, maybe there is someone among the democrats?

[Popov] I think that in the version that exists now, the version in which Russia is headed by President Yeltsin, that is the only possible version; more than that, it is Russia's good fortune. With the supremacy of the apparatus and the nomenklatura, to have a democratically inclined president oriented towards the democratic forces, that is one of the counter games, relatively speaking, against the democrats. That is why I think that even discussion of this issue is not productive. Now we need to support the president with all our might, and at the same time it must quite clearly be said that the democratic forces should be in opposition, and that the democratic forces must learn to be in opposition, this is also learning democracy. The revolutionary movement of the old Russia has left us one inheritance and that is: If I am not in power then I must take to the axe or the rifle. We must learn to live in a normal, civilized way and that is: I am not in power, however, I must be able, to struggle, and to defend the democratic interest.

[Solomatin] Gavriil Kharitonovich, thank you for coming to see us at such an early hour, and it will be our pleasure to invite you to our program again if you consider it to be interesting, because to talk about politics over a cup of coffee early in the morning has always been special to you. Do you remember: The richer the state becomes, and how it lives, and why does it need gold? [sentence as heard] That is why we will always be happy to see you. Many thanks.

[Popov] Thank you.

Yeltsin Appoints New Social Advisers

PM0209095192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By a decree of the Russian Federation president, Yekaterina Filippovna Lakhova has been appointed adviser to the Russian Federation president for questions of the family and mothers and children.

By a decree of the Russian Federation president, Valeriy Anatolyevich Burkov has been appointed adviser to the Russian Federation president for questions of the social protection of people with health disadvantages.

Republican Party: Parliament Opposes Reform

LD3108173592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—"Russia is once again on the threshold of the restoration of the nomenklatura-distributive system and Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and his deputy Yuriy Voronin took over the drive for counter-reforms," says a statement by the Russian Republican Party's Political Council released at a press conference given by the party's leaders here today.

The republican party believes the offensive on reforms was manifest "in isolating democratically-minded members of the Presidium" and also in moves against independent news organisations, primarily the newspaper IZVESTIYA to say nothing about the blocking by Parliament of a host of important bills.

Party Co-Chairman Igor Yakovenko specified that under the terms "democratically-minded members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium" the Party implied first and foremost First Deputy Speaker Sergey Filatov.

Republicans believe in the likelihood that the "counter-reform forces" will try to strip the president of additional powers as early as this autumn, "enact the 'crawling' resignation of the Government's reform-minded nucleus" and then alter drastically the economic course by attempting a nomenklatura revenge.

Grachev Meets Bashkortostan's Deputy Premier

PM3108142192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 1

[Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Press Center report: "Request Granted"]

[Text] Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, received Miniraiz Usmanov, deputy chairman of the Bashkortostan Council of Ministers, at the latter's request 28 August.

A conversation took place during which they discussed questions of mutual interest. M. Usmanov requested that the military construction detachment, which is carrying out work to reconstruct Bashkortostan's petroleum facilities with a view to improving the ecological situation, be kept on the republic's territory. He also requested that the republic be given a set of pontoons to construct a bridge. The minister adopted a decision to grant this request.

Savings Bank Readies Privatization Checks

LD3008110892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] The list of citizens of Russia to receive vouchers should be drawn up by 1 September. Privatization checks to the value of 10,000 rubles will be issued to citizens by representatives of branches of the Savings Bank of Russia from 1 October, the ANI News Agency reports.

New Trade Unions' Consultative Council Formed

PM2708123192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

["Own information" report: "New Russian Trade Unions Create Consultative Council"]

[Text] The idea of a consultative council of Russian trade unions uniting about 100,000 people was put forward at the council of representatives of the Confederation of Labor—an all-union association of strike committees created at the height of the "workers' offensive" against the CPSU in 1990.

On 22 August the leaders of virtually all the new independent trade unions of any influence—the unions of the miners, pilots, and air traffic controllers, the Association of Socialist Trade Unions, the council of workers committees (regional confederation of labor) of the Kuzbass, the Perm "Solidarity" trade union association, the trade union of ship builders from Nizhniy Novgorod, the "Justice" trade union association from St. Petersburg, and others gathered at the council of representatives of the Confederation of Labor.

After a sharp exchange between representatives of the pilots and the air traffic controllers, those assembled discussed the situation surrounding the recent strike organized by the federation of the air traffic controllers' trade union. The need to display solidarity with the strikers, who are now threatened with fines and other unpleasant things, was mentioned with no particular inspiration. The passionate speech by V. Konusenko, the leader of the Federation of the air traffic controllers' trade union, generated a certain sympathy. But many of those taking part in the meeting said that the air traffic controllers should first consult with other trade unions and only then decide how and when to strike. But nonetheless the statement warning the government against repressions against the leaders of the Federation of the Air Traffic Controllers' trade union was accepted in respect of the leaders of the Federation of the air traffic controllers' union. It was signed even by E. Bychkov—a representative of the pilots who had sharply denounced the action of his air traffic controller colleagues.

It can be noted that the Confederation of Labor is continuing to play a specific integrating role. For instance, this time it produced an initiative for the creation of a consultative council of Russian trade unions which do not belong to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions. The participants in the session supported by an overwhelming majority the joint statement on the creation of such a council, giving the plenums of their leading organs the right to approve the provision on the consultative council.

As before trade union leaders from countries of the former union—Belarus and Latvia—took part in the session of the Confederation of Labor. It was confirmed that many of these trade unions still need a structure enabling them to meet together with their colleagues from Russia.

A guideline date for holding the routine congress of the Confederation of Labor has been set for mid-November.

Report on Integration Into Global Telecommunications

OW2708213492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 27 Aug 92

["Cover Story" from the "INTERFAX Business Report": "Russia is Integrated Into the World Telecommunications Network"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The international "Global Communications Ring" program initiated several years ago, provided for Soviet participation. The Soviet Union's territory was to be intersected by several fiber optic lines. However, the Soviet wing of the program was postponed since COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] banned the sale of 565 MHz equipment to the Soviet Union. COCOM lifted some restrictions as the "Cold War" ended, allowing the project to be launched.

THE COPENHAGEN-MOSCOW LINE

Autumn 1992 will see the completion of an underwater communications line linking Copenhagen (Denmark) with the town of Kingisepp (Leningrad Region). From there the line will go on to Moscow via St Petersburg as a digital radio-relay line, since the COCOM ban is still in force. At the same time it is planned to build three international telephone exchanges. When the line comes fully into operation Russia will gain an additional 15,000 international telephone channels.

The cost to Russia will be: $36 mn. [million] for laying the undersea cable, $12 mn. for the radio-relay lines and $34 mn. for the building of the exchanges. Credits for the construction work have been found by the state-owned joint stock company, Intertelecom, under its own guarantees.

THE PALERMO-MOSCOW LINE

Russia's integration into the communications system of the South Atlantic will begin with the laying of a fibre optic communications line running from Palermo through Istanbul to Novorossiisk. The Ministry of Communications hopes that it will be able to get permission from COCOM for laying a cable from Novorossiisk (Black Sea port) via Rostov-on-Don to Moscow. COCOM's final decision should be given in September. Implementation of the project will give Russia and additional 20,000 international channels. Intertelecom's partner in this project is the Italian telecommunications company STET [expansion unknown].

THE PUSAN-KHABAROVSK LINE

The third fibre optics communications cable, containing 7000 channels will run 2610 km through Pusan (South Korea), Niigata (Japan), and Nakhodka to Khabarovsk (Far East, Russia). The project which is planned for completion in 1995 will involve Intertelecom (Russia), Telecom Denmark, the Great Northern Telegraph Company of Denmark, Korea Telecom and Kokusai Denshin Denwa (Japan). The project will make use of an already existing cable, which links Nakhodka with the Japanese prefecture of Niigata. The total cost of the project is estimated at $170 mn. It is planned to announce an international tender in September for supply of the cable and equipment and for the installation work required within the framework of the project.

THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

Satellite channels at present account for only 6% of Russia's telecommunications system. The Ministry of Communications intends to raise this to 20%.

The satellites, like the satellite communications channels, belong to the former Ministry of Defence of the USSR in the person of the Space Communications Board. As a result of conversion in the defence industry a number of channels and even actual satellites have become idle and could be leased out to Russian and foreign end users. At present the Space Communications Board has been given permission to form businesses which are to involve themselves directly in the leasing of the satellite communications channels.

The Ministry of Communications does not have its own satellite communications channels; it hires them from the Space Communications Board. In a bid to rid itself of this dependence, the Ministry has drafted a programme, which it calls "Rossiya", for developing the satellite communications and broadcasting systems at a total cost of 11 bn. [billion] rubles. It envisages in particular the formation of a series of new generation communications satellites, named "Gals", the first of which is to come into operation this year. This is a satellite that is built according to international standards and that will have three channels for direct TV broadcasting. (At present the Ekran satellites, which came into operation in 1976 are being used for this purpose, but their range was not designed for direct TV broadcasting).

The Gals satellites are being designed by the Scientific Production Unit of Applied Mechanics, which is headed by Academician Mikhail Reshetnikov. The unit, which is located in the closed town of Krasnoyarsk-26, is also designing the express satellites, which will begin in 1993 to replace in orbit the now obsolete Gorizont series. The new series satellites will have 12 relay broadcast stations, which will cover not only TV broadcasting, but also telephone and telegraph communications including the transfer of digital information.

With the assistance of a number of Canadian companies the Scientific Production Unit is also building an international communications satellite platform, Sovkanstar, which will be able to compete with Intelsat type satellites. The Unit is also forming a system of low orbital satellites, named Gonets, which can be accessed by means of portable receivers.

FOREIGN CITIZENS GET THE RIGHT TO OWN MEANS OF COMMUNICATION IN RUSSIA

On July 31 President Boris Yeltsin approved the "Temporary Statute on Communications in the Russian Federation" which will have effect until the Supreme Soviet approves the Law On Communications.

The statute provides legal entities and private individuals, including foreign citizens, with the right to make and run for production or other needs their own means of communication. However, the legal entities and private individuals are obliged to comply with the legislative acts of the ministries and departments concerned that regulate matters affecting the running of means of communication. Permission to operate means of communication is given on the basis of licences issued by the Ministry of Communications of the Russian Federation.

Foreign citizens and legal entities are entitled to own means of communication. The running of means of communication that are not state property is the responsibility of the owners.

Once they have been granted a licence foreign legal entities and private individuals may access their own networks and installations to the state communications network.

Private individuals wishing to build communications networks for use or for leasing may be granted the land on which they are to be built as a lifelong, inheritable possession.

Under the statute the privatization of communications enterprises shall take place on the basis of state privatization programmes.

All legal entities and private individuals including foreign nationals have the right to make use of communications on equal terms. Protection of the rights for using communications shall be made in accordance with the Law On the Protection of Consumers' Rights.

Under the terms of the statute, diplomatic and consular representations of foreign states and international organizations shall be granted privileges in respect of the use of communications.

If international agreements signed by the Russian Federation make provisions other than those included in the Temporary Statute, the provisions of the international agreement shall have effect.

Chief on Role of New Government Press Service

PM2808082992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 1

[Interview with G.I. Shipitko, chief of the Russian Federation Government Press Service, by Pavel Vasilyev under the rubric "The Government Day by Day", place and date not given; "First Hand Information"—first paragraph is ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI introduction]

[Text] On 20 August a press service was formed under the Russian Federation Government. What prompted this decision? It was with this that my conversation with the new government department's leader, Gennadiy Ivanovich Shipitko, began.

[Shipitko] There was actually a press office under the Russian Federation Government which basically dealt with technical provision for press conferences, briefings, and meetings of the prime minister and his deputies with journalists. But the times are presenting us with a more complex task: The government's leaders not only need contacts with the press but feedback, analysis of the public's reactions to government decisions.

The reform that the Gaydar government is implementing has shown that public consciousness is not taking in the economic ideas and efforts of the Cabinet of Ministers owing to a shortage of information. People are not prepared, or more often do not have the opportunity, to assess correctly the contents of documents being adopted in Moscow. The confusion that is present in the Russian mass media bears witness not so much to pluralism, although this does exist, as to an absence of a news arena in which the government can have its own place. We would be pleased if not just a narrow circle of journalists or television commentators but anyone who needs these facts could use the government press center's materials.

[Vasilyev] Judging by the tasks that the press service has been set, you are going to have to select a sizeable staff...

[Shipitko] In all 30 people. It is proposed that they should be journalists, sociologists, and country specialists. Apart from organizing press conferences, we will devote ourselves to analyzing open news sources and working up recommendations for the government. A service is being set up that will work exclusively with journalists. Not only with Russians but those from other CIS countries and from more distant foreign parts. It is also planned to organize groups that will follow the situation in the areas of economics, foreign policy, and foreign economic activities.

[Vasilyev] But the president's administration, the Supreme Soviet, and finally the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry will be "players" in this news arena, won't they. Will there not be an unjustified overlap here?

[Shipitko] No, there will not. Each news service has had its role defined. What is more, the government press service intends to see to it that the rights of Russian and Russian-speaking citizens to receive news about affairs in Russia are not curtailed.

New Economic Newspaper Starts Publication

LD2708151492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—The first issue of the newspaper EKONOMICHESKIYE NOVOSTI (ECONOMIC NEWS) went off print. This is truly noteworthy event at a time when many newspapers and magazines are forced to close. The new publication's credo as proclaimed by its authors is "no politics, only the economy".

In addition to very compressed and comprehensive information about economic life in Russia and the Commonwealth, the Baltics and Georgia selected by journalists by the digest type from 30-odd newspapers, journals and news bulletins, the reader will find in its first issue interviews with Anatoliy Chubays, who heads the State Property Management Committee, and Russian Minister of Labour Gennadiy Melikyan.

It will also read an interesting analytical research revealing the covert springs of the exchange game titled "What Drives the Share Rate Up and Down", learn prices for the sale and lease of land in various parts of Moscow, visit together with journalists the tax inspectorate and acquaint himself with the long list of enterprises offered for sale and privatisation in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and Belgorod.

The reference section titled "Who Makes Decision" features the structure of Russia's Government bodies with the addresses and telephones of their heads.

The newspaper offers to directors and other economic managers the quintessence and difference between old and new norms recently adopted in documents on foreign economic and currency regulation, in the laws on mortgage and bankruptcies, and tells about tax privileges adopted by the Russian Parliament in July.

As for full texts of new regulatory enactments, they will be regularly issued as a special supplement to the newspaper, which can be subscribed to separately from the newspaper itself.

The new newspaper's subscription indexes in the Rospechat catalogue are as follows: 32041 (Russian language edition), 32042 (English language edition) and the supplement Dokumenty - 32045.

Ministry Proposes 'Ecological Conversion' Program

PM2708152292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by T. Siratskaya and V. Rybakov]

[Text] [Siratskaya] The socioeconomic damage done annually by environmental pollution runs to around 300 billion rubles. And it is no secret that a very considerable proportion of this comes from discharges from defense industry enterprises. The Russian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is now proposing its own program—"Ecological Conversion." The program utilizes state-of-the-art technologies and defines a clear-cut mechanism for the relationship between the customer (nature conservation organs) and the manufacturer (military-industrial complex enterprises). This could be the salvation of many defense industry enterprises that were on the brink of closure. In the absence of military orders, the Ministry of Ecology is prepared to give them work—by ordering nature conservation equipment from the enterprises, the sale of which will allow them to pay off their loans within two years, experts reckon.

[Kutsenko] So, it would be painful and unpleasant to come to terms with the fact that the government would let our program pass unnoticed—as has happened to other programs in the past.

Agriculture Minister Speaks on Current Issues

LD2908204992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0815 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Victor Khylystun by correspondent Irina Lapina in Moscow; from the "How Are We Going To Live?" program—live]

[Text] [Lapina] Greetings. After the short summer break our call-in program is live on the air once again. Our number is still 217-45-63. Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Khylystun will be our guest today. He will be taking your questions live on the air.

Viktor Nikolayevich, you are continuing to work on Saturday. Let us immediately get down to work—with a minimum of figures and certainly a minimum of victorious communiques—and with the maximum true and exact information. What is the situation today?

[Khylystun] I send greetings to all the viewers. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet with them once again. I would like to share with them the concerns that exist in the agro-industrial complex today.

It is rather difficult to give a brief summation of the current situation. The situation is not simple. There are many complicated problems that are difficult to resolve. But the situation today is not catastrophic. If you will allow me, I will cite a few figures. The harvest is running late. This is related to the fact that planting was two weeks late this year due to the late spring. And now with the heavy rains in many regions, we are having problems harvesting the good grain in time.

Meanwhile, bread grain is still not ready for harvesting in the Urals, Western Siberia, and in the north of Altay Kray. At the moment, nearly 60 percent of all the grain crops have been gathered; we have nearly 70 million tonnes [as heard] of threshed grain.

The statistics office is providing us more detailed information at the start of each week. A snapshot of our present situation reveals the following: We expect to obtain between 96-97 million tonnes—which is more than last year—but considerably less than the record yields we reached in 1990.

The situation in fodder production is very difficult. Given that 18 regions of Russian territories were affected by drought or, on the contrary, received too much rain, we will have a shortfall of about one-quarter of crude and succulent fodder. Obviously, this cannot but have a negative impact on the overall agricultural scene. At the same time it has turned out that during the whole year we

under-supplied fodder to poultry-raising and pig-raising enterprises and kept them at a maximum level of between 60-65 percent of their requirements. Accordingly, this has had an effect on cattle and meat productivity, in addition to eggs, milk, and dairy production.

Meanwhile, I would like to point out that at times one has sometimes seen in news reports this sort of thing—once it was said that milk production had fallen 83 percent and meat production was down 81 percent—although really the reductions were 17 and 19 percent respectively. While these are big losses, they are not yet catastrophic. Given the present circumstances, things will no doubt continue to be difficult in those 18 regions that we are trying to help today.

With respect to processing agricultural products, the present situation there is also challenging. We are unable to ensure very intensive work by enterprises of the food and processing sector, primarily because of the outstanding debt owed to those very processors at the moment. Basically we have the trade network in debt to the processors and the processors similarly in debt to the agricultural workers. This circle of debts gives rise to a very difficult economic situation in the countryside. That is a general review of things at the moment.

[Lapina] Thank you Viktor Nikolayevich. However, I would like to ask you for further details regarding the private farms that are being set up. While we will be receiving specific questions on this theme later today, for the present it would be interesting to hear what proportion they form and what contribution they make to the overall harvest. Is it on a large-scale or is this just an embryonic model, and does our harvest continue to come from the collective and state farms?

[Khylystun] I believe it would be a serious mistake to think that these new peasant farms could immediately become large-scale producers. These farms need some time to get on their feet. Nonetheless, if one bears in mind that there are now 133,000 peasant farms in the Russian Federation, accounting for roughly 5 percent of the land, it is worth noting that they will account for about 4 percent of the total volume of agricultural and animal husbandry production.

The situation varies in different regions. Very good work is being done—with good results—by private farmers in the northern Caucasus and in Orenburg oblast. Just recently I had the opportunity to visit one of the rayons of Orenburg oblast. I would like to note for our audience the following figures: Out of the total of 105 private farms, 103 are now working excellently. Of course this is not representative of the situation throughout the Russian Federation. The picture is much worse in the northwest where conditions are more complicated and where it is harder for private farmers to get established.

In addition, one must note that the development of the private farmers' movement is affected in a very negative way by the fact that we are unable to give the necessary level of state support. Nonetheless, the private farmers' movement is expanding and announcements that it is breaking apart are completely at variance with reality.

The creation of private farms is not the only branch of the agrarian reform. The reform of collective and state farms is going ahead in parallel, as are the privatization of food industry enterprises and the development of the agricultural services system for new forms of agricultural management. These processes, however, are meeting with complications. They are still running into opposition; nonetheless, the procedures are under way.

We believe that in the autumn following the harvest the process of forming collective and state farms into joint-stock companies will undoubtedly speed up. This is what all the information coming in from the localities suggests. What I have seen in the oblasts of the northern Caucauses and the southern Urals indicates that the rural inhabitants understand the expediency of switching to new forms of economic management—including joint-stock companies, associations of peasants farms, and cooperative enterprises in which property is held as shares. I believe that by the end of the year without any pressure—without pressure from the government—the majority of agricultural enterprises will change over to new forms of economic management.

[Lapina] Viktor Nikolayevich, I would like to ask you your personal opinion about buying, selling, and ownership of land. It is no secret that there are two extreme points of view. If it is impossible to own land then it is impossible to manage it sensibly and rationally. Others, including our parliament judging from the results of voting on the bill—think that land will fall into the hands of speculators and swindlers. What do you think?

[Khylystun] I have expressed my point of view several times and I have a clear position on this. There must a normal market in land regulated by the state. We are not saying that absolutely free buying, selling, and land profiteering should be permitted. In every civilized state there is a mechanism for controlling the land market.

Therefore, we believe that in effect we have already seen the introduction of private property in land; however, restrictions on buying, selling, and creating a normal market make it impossible to create the optimal size for peasant farms or set up the optimal production structure. Therefore, it is necessary, it is essential, for us to make the decision in the very near future to set up a regulated land market. What do we need for this? What we need are certain legislative norms that will facilitate land coming into the market place in a normal manner. This is not to say we sanction the creation of new latifundia, or purchases by money-bags. Rather, we are speaking about normal state regulation during which land can be bought by those who are creating the optimal size of farm, those who are going to work on the land.

Lacking this it will be difficult to carry out the agrarian reform because the average share of land on leaving a collective or state farm amounts to—as a rule—six or seven or, at times, 14 hectares in rayons that are well

provided with land. Obviously, this size is insufficient. But if it is made possible to buy the land share of pensioners or workers in the social sphere who do not intend to work on the land, themselves, then an optimal peasant farm can be formed and this is absolutely normal.

The fact that today we are forbidden to buy and sell land means that, in reality, we are being ostrich-like because it is going on. However, it is going on in the shadow economy without real control by the state and this is more dangerous than a normal market in land regulated by the state.

[Lapina] Thank you. Let us now move on to questions that are coming in from Kazakhstan and Ashkhabad. Petrov asks: Throughout the world agriculture is subsidized by the government. Why do we not provide subsidies for agriculture and why do we not give aid to people who need it?

[Khylystun] Indeed, in the majority of countries agriculture is subsidized. It is also subsidized in the Russian Federation. I cannot speak about all the countries of the CIS. Regarding the Russian Federation, allocations are made from the budget for the development of the social sphere and the engineering infrastructure in the countryside. At present there are several mechanisms in operation that provide agricultural subsidies. These include subsidies for animal husbandry production, compensation for the cost of fuel and lubricants, and regulation via the price policy. In particular, at present the price of grain has been set at a level that allows grain producers to survive and functional normally.

So in fact subsidies exist. The whole question is for these subsidies to be civilized. They should be aimed at raising the efficiency of production, not at providing indiscriminate support and not at handing out a specific share from the state budget to those who do not want to work. They should be given to those who are really trying to use this state money to raise the efficiency of their farms.

[Lapina] Thank you. We now have some questions from Askhabad. What money will Russia sell grain to Turkmenistan for? For foreign currency or for rubles? Gasanov asks us how can we live in a rural area.

[Khylystun] As for the sale of grain from Russia to other CIS countries, this will only be carried out within the bounds of intergovernmental agreements. The Russian Federation will not be capable of selling more grain beyond these limits. Meanwhile, the prices that will apply during this are those that exist on the Russian market. There won't be any others. Regarding the possibility of settlement of the land, in Russia the following mechanism exists. There are land redistribution funds, especially in the central and southwestern regions, where interested parties from other regions could come and receive a parcel of land and rely on certain financial support to set up production start-up conditions within the framework of our resettlement policy.

[Lapina] Thanks. Now we have a series of questions practically on one and the same theme. Zaytsev from Moscow wants to know when will the speculation in milk and bread end. Nikitina asks is it true that in October bread will go up again. Ivanov from Ufa wants to know whether there will be a price rise on food and above all bread. It is not simple. For so many years everyone has been accustomed to bread being sold for a nominal price. I even read that at one time Khrushchev promised to make it free. But that isn't the main thing. Anyway, bread is a symbol, a staple, and I suppose that's why all this is taken so much to heart and the written questions basically touch on this. Well, explain this—the spontaneity of the market is just a model, but in practice many, even rich states, regulate a whole range of prices on food products. Would it be worth our while to consider their experience? Or am I wrong?

[Khylystun] Without any doubt we will not move away from food subsidies. This is a worldwide practice. And as I have already said, when we subsidize the output of animal husbandry production, in the final analysis this is a subsidy of the price to the consumer. Otherwise, given the present cost price of the production of meat and milk this would filter down through the price and ultimately the consumer. As far as the possibility of price hikes are concerned, I think that they will increase again before the end of the year. We can't get away from this. But at the same time we have to ensure as a priority a prior increase in the population's incomes.

[Lapina] I see.

[Khylystun] If we manage to do this, it will be great. If we don't manage to do this, obviously, we will have to adopt decisions relating to subsidies, among other things, the retail price of bread.

[Lapina] Thank you. Peskov from Moscow notes that you have mentioned what is being done so as not only to gather in the harvest but also to store it. What is the fate of the Moscow vegetable depots? Morozov, Sergey Nikonorovich: Why did 28 wagons of tomatoes rot last year? They didn't want to sell tomatoes cheaper in the shops. Basically, the poor storage of the harvest. Well, this is not a new problem. We have always gathered in a splendid harvest, only to spoil half of it, or even more. We also liked to boast of our new equipment. You remember, we had that chain stretching from the field to the shops? All that just ended in talk basically and did not get to the stage of actions.

In this context let's make a seditious change of subject. Is it worth our while growing a harvest without end, eternally chasing after figures? Perhaps we could firstly aim at a half of the harvest, but make sure that this half gets to the table?

[Khylystun] I can't agree with the way this question is put because the actual output of agricultural production today does not meet medical norms of consumption. At the same time—even given the shortage of food produced—we are indeed losing an enormous amount of it.

[Lapina] The loss coefficient is, I believe, already above any norms, isn't it?

[Khylystun] For fruit and vegetable production the loss amounts to over 30 percent. This has been a statistic over many years.

[Lapina] I have even read such figures that about three years ago we were losing approximately 90 percent of the total potato harvest.

[Khylystun] That is not correct. For potatoes the figure for damage and losses did not amount to more than a half. But even a half is absolutely unforgivable. Even a half. Therefore, it is natural that now, thinking about increasing agricultural production, we are simultaneously undertaking a whole range of steps to ensure that this food gets to the population. It is impossible to resolve this problem in the course of a few months; nonetheless, we are forming a system of retail markets now which are to ensure purchase and storage. Moreover, if this retail market works, and if, as a commercial market, it is really interested in gaining profit, it will not be interested in losing production as was formerly the case in the vegetable depots.

Regarding the storage situation—grain storage in particular—this has also been a complex year. Unfortunately, many farms are trying to hold on to their grain for the time being, in anticipation of a further increase in the grain price. Very often the grain is stored in unsuitable buildings, sometimes on open threshing floors. Quite simply, this represents a criminal attitude. I have to say that we sometimes take quite harsh, administrative measures to deal with this. This is probably necessary.

The tomato situation is also difficult now. A reasonable harvest has been grown in Astrakhan Oblast. But it is becoming fairly difficult to market this produce nowadays, for a variety of reasons. Transport charges are so high that neither purchasers nor producers of these tomatoes can afford them. Furthermore, the marketing price is being affected by additional tax levies on this produce. As a result it is not to the purchaser's advantage to buy them. He cannot afford them at this price. Meanwhile, in Astrakhan Oblast, for example, producers cannot sell them for less than 9 rubles [R] a kilo. If they do, the finances of those farms where they are produced will collapse.

For this reason a variety of additional measures to deal with the situation are being taken at the moment. For Astrakhan Oblast, in particular, the possibility of reducing water transport charges is being studied. They are too high at the moment. The possibility of subsidizing tomato production is also being examined. We hope that this produce will reach Moscow, St. Petersburg, and the other cities despite any difficulties. At the same time, I have to point out that at the moment there are about 7,000 tonnes of tomatoes in warehouses in Moscow that trading organizations are not claiming. Frankly, I do not fully understand this situation because there are no tomatoes in the shops at the moment. This is a question for the retail network itself.

[Lapina] We now have some questions from private farmers. Zhilkina from Sochi asks when farmers will be supplied with miniature farming equipment. [passage indistinct] At one time private plots accounted for a fairly small proportion of the land. Nevertheless, they made a substantial contribution to food production and obtained fairly good yields. What is the problem now? Why are there so many difficulties in getting equipment, agricultural equipment, in getting loans for the purchase of land? Some people feel that certain forces are deliberately holding up the development of private farming, not allowing it to develop. There are indeed many problems.

[Khylystun] As far as the government is concerned, support for private farmers is unquestionably the basis of our policy in the agrarian sphere. But given the state's actual scope—I repeat, its actual scope, its scope for granting loans without additional credit emission, which itself creates new difficulties on the financial front—it is fairly difficult for us to meet all the requirements of the developing private farming sector. Regardless, R94 billion will be allocated during 1992 as direct financial support to private farmers. To date we have already allocated about R60 billion in credit, including investment credit, as support to the private farming movement.

As for equipment for peasant farms—miniature equipment was mentioned.

[Lapina] Miniature equipment.

[Khlystun] Generally speaking, I believe this is a mistaken emphasis. The private farmer—not the private plot owner—specifically needs conventional, ordinary, medium-powered tractors, like the LTZ-50, MTZ-75 and others. But miniature equipment is also needed. Therefore, production of K-20 tractors is now being prepared at a plant in St. Petersburg, at the Kirov works. It will begin next year. Production of small-scale Vladimir tractors is being increased. At the same time we are now studying the question of expanding the production of wheeled tractors at the Volgograd tractor works. It used to produce caterpillar tractors but there was no demand for these from private farmers. Again, it will take more than a single month to implement all these programs. It will take at least two years. These programs are now in the pipeline.

As far as the present is concerned, I can say that this year we have somewhat improved the supply of equipment to private farms. Recently the statistical directorate surveyed 29,000 private farmers. These statistics revealed that there is now one tractor for every two private farms. Last year, for roughly the same total, there was one tractor for every four peasant farms. In other words, the potential is gradually being increased, albeit very slowly at the moment.

[Lapina] Let's hope so, let's hope so [repeats herself]. Kolesnikov from Azov asks the following question. Can

privatization checks or vouchers be used to purchase or privatize land? Naturally this word—voucher—had to be mentioned today. It is so much in vogue at the moment. He is seeking advice and details. He wants to know who supports this and who, generally, opposes it. But that's not the main thing. Vouchers will have to be sorted out—and they are being sorted out. In fact, we've even got a new TV program with this title. It's called: Let's Sort It Out. Let's narrow down the topic and see how it applies to rural inhabitants. What can you say about this?

[Khylystun] First and foremost, I would recommend that rural inhabitants use vouchers for participation in the privatization of the food industry and industries processing raw materials directly for villagers. There has been a fairly protracted argument over the privatization of the processing industry. Our position on this was unequivocal. The principal shareholder, the principal co-owner of processing enterprises, must be the person who produces agricultural raw material. This position is now supported by the government. A decision on this will be issued shortly. So I would advise villagers to use their vouchers, first and foremost, for the privatization of processing industry enterprises.

Regarding the acquisition of land, paying for one's land share, the land that is allocated against payment, these same vouchers can in principle be used for that, too.

[Lapina] I see. Thank you. An entire group of new questions have come in. Let's move on to an obligatory part of our program. Let's try and have a blitz on these questions. These are questions that need short answers.

[Khylystun] All right.

[Lapina] We took land for a private farm. We were given the land, but then forbidden to build anything there. Is this right? That's a question from Manzhiyeva in Kalmykia.

[Khylystun] That's absolutely wrong. Land that is transferred into private ownership can be used for the needs of a peasant farms.

[Lapina] I see. Korobkov from Moscow asks the following question. By how much will bread prices rise by the end of the year?

[Khylystun] I cannot cite a specific figure. At any rate it won't be a plural number.

[Lapina] What will be the price of potatoes and vegetables this year? That's a question from Syktyvkar.

[Khylystun] The actual procurement price for potatoes is turning out to be about R15 as an average in the Russian Federation. So, the marketing price will be about R18.

[Lapina] Yekaterinburg, Semenov. What will happen to the collective farms?

[Khylystun] Everything depends on the work force at the collective farm. If the workers prefer to keep the previous form of management, it can stay that way. But if they decide to become an association of peasant farms, a joint stock company or a cooperative enterprise with a purpose-orientated form of ownership, they are entitled to do that and, I believe, they should do that.

[Lapina] Have you finished [words indistinct] from Moscow?

[Khylystun] No.

[Lapina] Let's move on to our next questions. This one's from Tsvetkova, Olga Nikolayevna. There was a question about people's wish to move out of towns and live in the countryside. Who does a teacher turn to, apply to, if he wants to move to the countryside and get a job as a teacher? Is there an exchange? Where, in general, can one find out about this? What can we say about that?

[Khylystun] There is a state agency on migration attached to the Ministry of Agriculture. You can apply to it, or directly to the territory to which you want to move. The northwest and north central zones of Russia are most in need of manpower at the moment. I have in mind, first and foremost, Smolensk, Novgorod, Pskov, Kostroma, and Vologda Oblasts. Those are the ones. Manpower is also needed in Kaluga and Tula, but far less of it.

[Lapina] Here's a question from Novosibirsk, several questions in fact. What is the minister's attitude towards the assimilation of agricultural science in production? And how does the minister—I'll read all the questions—how does the minister recruit his staff? Third, how does he intend to resolve the question of seed cultivation for maize, the main fodder crop?

[Khylystun] Those are three interesting, if different, questions.

[Lapina] Yes, they are different.

[Khylystun] The assimilation of scientific achievements is unquestionably one of the most important issues facing us in our agrarian policy now. As a specific example I wish to cite the following. We are currently asking the government to subsidize agricultural producers who acquire elite pedigree cattle and elite seeds. That would be real economic support for the introduction of progressive farming methods.

The staff of the Ministry of Agriculture were recruited during the reshaping process it underwent in the autumn. People were chosen for their businesslike qualities and their attitude to reasonable agrarian reform. I feel that the deputy ministers make up a fairly good collective. We work fairly harmoniously with each other.

As for maize seeds, this is a very complex question. In the past we have habitually used seeds that were produced in Moldova, in the north Caucasus, and especially in Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia. That presents

certain difficulties at the moment. Therefore, we intend to develop production of maize seeds for next year in Stavropol Kray and the Kuban. We will have more or less sufficient maize seeds this year—I mean seeds for the next planting year.

[Lapina] Thank you. The next group of questions once again concerns not just us in Russia but also our neighbors who used to belong to the former Soviet Union. How much will land cost here, and is it possible to migrate from a different Republic, from Alma-Ata to Russia for example? What will be the position on this?

[Khylystun] At the moment we have a transparent border. The movement of persons is not presently restricted. If an inhabitant of Kazakhstan deems it expedient to move to a rural area of Russia, he should apply to the address I have already mentioned, the state agency for rural migration.

[Lapina] Will prices for the lease of land be changed? That's from Fomenko in Moscow.

[Khylystun] At the present time the price of land is set at 50 times the land tax rate. But the situation has developed in such a way that this land tax rate is an absolutely pathetic sum compared with the prices now being charged for material and technical resources, and even agricultural produce. Therefore, it is obvious that we will have to take another look at the land tax rate, to ensure this tax really is a regulator that evens out the conditions of production in the north Caucasus, say, and Vologda Oblast. Land prices will change correspondingly, of course, and so will the rate of lease payment. I cannot tell you today how much it will be, but it will obviously increase.

[Lapina] As you know, Viktor Nikolayevich, we have already broached this subject today. But, all the same, we are getting very many questions about it, because this is a painful topic. Here is one from Ivanov in Chelyabinsk. All around us, in Kustanay, in Ufa, in Kurgan, bread costs R2. Here it costs R15. Why? Please answer.

[Khylystun] Prices are indeed developing differently in different regions. Very often industrially developed regions are able to peg the bread price at a certain level, by subsidizing it out of their local budget. But if this support exceeds reasonable levels, I think everybody suffers as a result—because money is transferred away from the social sphere and scope for supporting pensioners, invalids, and the development of education is reduced. Finally, the development of agriculture itself is affected because the revenue side of the budget is restricted after all. I don't think that the price of bread should be automatically pegged in this way, at a level of R2 a kilo, for instance. This devalues the price. We must ensure that it corresponds to actual costs incurred in the production of bread, while at the same time retaining a reasonable subsidy which makes it possible to adjust this price to the level of consumer demand. But to keep it at R2 is, I think, foolish these days.

[Lapina] Nevertheless, bread prices are of course very high and the government should probably subsidize them.

[Khylystun] Given present conditions and the grain procurement price now in place, the price of bread will obviously be fairly high. Therefore, subsidies cannot be avoided.

[Lapina] Here's a question from Salnikov of the Koryak okrug in Kamchatka. How do you envisage the development of agriculture in the north—that's to say, reindeer breeding and private plots for the production of milk, meat, and vegetables. All farms in our area are now operating in the red.

[Khylystun] We are now drafting a special program to support agriculture in the north. The strategic aim is to preserve traditional forms of agricultural production, above all reindeer breeding. We invite northerners to take part in the drafting of this program to ensure that it really is both sensible and realistic.

[Lapina] Thank you. Semenov, a viewer in Moscow, is not happy with the answer, the specific answer that we gave her. At the moment there are no tomatoes in the shops. We are not happy with your reply. Why don't you get in touch with those bodies that could help you to get the produce into Moscow's shops.

[Khylystun] It's not a question of us being unable to get in touch with them. We have talks every day with Moscow's retail network. I do not wish to shift the blame from myself to somebody else, but those are the facts. The Ministry of Agriculture and rural commodity producers cannot guarantee the entire mechanism of trade in the city. Today we are willing to deliver a virtually unlimited quantity of tomatoes from Astrakhan Oblast, on demand. Thereafter, it is a task for the city authorities, the task of those bodies that regulate city trade these days. These questions should be addressed to them.

[Lapina] Thank you.

[Khylystun] However, I have to point out that we are working, virtually on a daily basis, with the relevant city organizations in order to resolve this problem one way or the other. We have a big stake in the marketing of our produce, in seeing that it really does reach shop counters.

[Lapina] We wish you success in this. Now for several questions on one and the same subject. Here's one from Kuzmin in Samara. Why doesn't the government make concessions over the procurement of the [grain] harvest and other agricultural products from Russian arable farmers. After all, we are paying hard currency for imports from the West. Kovalev asks when will Russia purchase grain from abroad? Why is grain being purchased from abroad?

[Khylystun] It is absolutely incorrect to say that we are buying grain abroad to the detriment of our own growers. Unfortunately this claim has been made very frequently of late. I can assure you that this is not the case. The fact is

that we will produce 96-97 billion tonnes this year. Given the present pattern of consumption of grain products we have to have no less than 115- 117 billion tonnes. Otherwise animal husbandry will go hungry. Otherwise we will create a multitude of problems for the supply of milk, meat and, bread. It is not the case that we would not have to buy grain from abroad if we purchased it from our own growers. Even if we buy up all those 97 billion tonnes, this will not meet our requirements.

Regarding imports, we are not spending pure hard currency on purchases from abroad. These imports are financed by specific lines of credit. Therefore, we cannot use this money, this hard currency, to pay our own commodity producers, as is often suggested. This is simply impossible.

[Lapina] Now for a question from Pogodin. I recently visited Moscow Oblast, where a state farm is selling land at R5,000 for a hundredth part of a hectare. Is this fair or not?

[Khylystun] I cannot give you an unequivocal answer because I have to know the rate of land tax for that specific piece of land. I have already said that the price ought to be 50 times the rate of tax.

[Lapina] Every case has to be investigated on its own merits.

[Khylystun] Every specific case has to be treated on its own merits. It depends on the location and quality of the land in question. But, in principle, I think R5,000 for a hundredth of a hectare is excessive.

[Lapina] Now for a question with a clear sub-text. It's from Novgorodskiy in Ryazan. Why was Starodubtsev released? Is he really so indispensable to the strengthening of the collective farm system? [laughter] Viktor Nikolayevich, if you have information about this?

[Khylystun] I don't think this is a question for me.

[Lapina] If you have any information about the state of affairs on Starodubtsev's farm, maybe you could share it with us. It would be timely, given that the press is publishing diametrically different accounts of the situation there. Some say he's a model farmer, an especially talented man, and so on and so forth. What's the real story?

[Khylystun] I do not doubt that Starodubtsev was such a good farmer. The farm he directs is operating quite well even now. But it should not be forgotten that this farm was assisted far more in the past than others. Therefore, it's not entirely fair to compare it with other surrounding farms. I believe that this farm in Tula Oblast is also floating shares. At any rate a decision on this has been taken: it, too, is joining the reform. I hesitate to forecast how Starodubtsev's return will influence this process.

[Lapina] Thank you. Now there's a question from Magomedov in Tajikistan. Why are wool prices so low in Russia?

[Khylystun] That's a fairly hard question. I have to tell you that we have been arguing over the wool price for three months now, not because we don't want to pay a high price. It has already been decided, in principle, to pay R540 per kg of wool. But then the price of a worsted suit will be more than the consumer can afford. As a result we will have to subsidize either the purchaser or the textile industry. Where are the funds for such subsidies to come from? That is the main difficulty. The evolution of our budget situation is so difficult at the moment that it is very hard to find these funds. Nevertheless, the price of wool will be R540 a kg. This has already been agreed to in principle. This is a reasonable price which allows sheep farmers to operate.

[Lapina] Again we have some questions that have already been touched on. We discussed these questions at the start of the program. This one comes from Butkevich in Fergana. For those who wish to migrate to a rural locality, would you please specify the address, the postal index, the city to which they should apply. Read it out on the program. Maybe we should make this clear once more. Where should these people apply to?

[Khylystun] The address is the Federal Agency for Migration of Citizens to the Countryside, Ministry of Agriculture, Orlikov Pereulok 1-11, Moscow.

[Lapina] Thank you. Marsheva, Natalya Vasilyevna, asks whether there is any legal basis by which she can recover land that used to belong to her but that was expropriated by a collective farm and handed on for others to make use of?

[Khylystun] I don't think that it is expedient to do this in the Russian Federation. Bear in mind that this land was expropriated back at the start of the century.

[Lapina] In fact, there are many of these questions. The land was expropriated from the real owners in 1927-31.

[Khylystun] The actual situation is this: By rectifying one injustice—and we are dealing with the descendants of those people from whom the land was taken—we would likely create another social injustice, no less harsh than the original one. This is very dangerous. For this reason we argued for a long time over the drafting of the Russian Federation's land code. Most of the scientists, most of the specialists who delved into this problem, agreed that it would not be expedient to do this.

[Lapina] I see. Thank you. Smirnov has a question. I have heard that the Agro-Industrial Union of Russia was formed last spring. What real assistance is it giving to the reorganization of reform being undertaken by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture.

[Khylystun] The Agro-Industrial Union of Russia was indeed created. It is beginning to function. But the formation process has taken too long. So this organizational stage is continuing. I, for one am not yet aware of any real return from it.

[Lapina] A question from Slesarev, Viktor Anatolyevich. None of the subsidies that the state allocates for the agricultural production actually reach the producers. This is what I affirm. Now, the question: Who is in charge of it and who exercises control over it?

[Khylystun] If this is a question of an individual case, I will try to sort it out, but in general subsidies do reach the direct producers. For each tonne of produce surrendered, these subsidies are paid in accordance with the established equivalent value into bank accounts, and this is attested in regional departments for agriculture. On this basis, the producer is paid the share that he is due. In any case, the ministry has not received any major complaints in this respect.

[Lapina] Now a question by Cherenkova, Yelena Sergeyevna, from Shchelkovo, Moscow oblast. How can one have an appointment with you? What are your reception days and hours? [laughter]

[Khylystun] There is a reception department in the Ministry, one would contact them in writing or talk to them and then receive an appointment. I see people once a week.

[Lapina] Will sunflower and soya prices rise?

[Khylystun] Our recommendations regarding the price of these commodities have not yet been finalized. A group of experts is working at it, bearing in mind that the harvesting has not started yet. The market is constantly changing. We would not like to announce our recommendations too far in advance.

[Lapina] Kosin, of St Petersburg has a question. Can one guarantee that the land that we will be given now will not be expropriated in a year's time?

[Khylystun] The guarantee can only lie in one thing: If the current legislation stays, if the current system of democratic government is maintained.

[Lapina] Viktor Nikolayevich, the time allocated to our program is coming to an end. I want to read out to you the following note of greetings from Kazakhstan's Tselingrad oblast, from the (?Zhylynbek) mine, from (?Umarlin Marat)—he implored us to read out this note to you without fail: The minister and I studied at the same mining technical college. Greetings from the miners and congratulations on your appointment to such a lofty post and wishes for all the very, very best! Please pass on that note, without fail. [laughter]

[Khylystun] Thank you (?Marat). Thank you.

[Lapina] Viktor Nikolayevich! The time allocated to our program is coming to an end and here is something else that I feel obliged to ask you. We have spoken about a great deal. You have given your version of the state of affairs in agriculture. I don't think we've been able to allay the fears of many but on the whole we didn't set that as our aim today. It's terrible when bread prices are going up so insanely. Well, over the past month, bread prices have gone up twice in a row. That was a note from Krasnodar and there were a great many such notes: It's terrible all the same when bread is becoming so expensive with winter lying ahead. Tell us in all honesty—will there be bread? Is famine foreseeable? Or do we need to stock up on crackers.

[Khylystun] I can say with absolute conviction that there won't be any famine. In any event, we have enough products to ensure that this won't happen. As far as the price of agricultural produce is concerned—yes, it will rise a bit further. But it must rise sensibly, within sensible limits. But there are no grounds, there need be no fears—as far as the quantity of foodstuffs that we are capable of issuing to people, to people in cities and in the countryside this winter is concerned—that there will be a hungry winter.

[Lapina] Thank you. God willing, as the saying goes. Thank you Viktor Nikolayevich for taking part in the broadcast. I will give you the remaining notes that you didn't manage to answer on the airwaves and I express the hope that meetings with you within the framework of our program will become a regular feature.

[Khylystun] Thank you. All the best.

[Lapina] Thank you once again.

Regional Affairs

Tatar, Russian Spokesmen on Treaty Issues

PM2608142692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Aug 92 First Edition p 6

["Political Dialogue" prepared and conducted by Dmitriy Mikhaylin, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent for the Republic of Tatarstan, comprising "roundtable" in Kazan with Tatar Vice President Vasiliy Likhachev and other Tatar spokesmen, plus interviews in Moscow with Gennadiy Burbulis, secretary of state to the Russian president, and Valeriy Tishkov, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy; dates of roundtable and interviews not given: "Russia-Tatarstan: One Old Friend Is Better Than Two New Ones"]

[Text] The talks between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan are nearly over. The plan is for a bilateral treaty between the federal organs of power and Tatarstan to be signed in mid-September. The material presented here is not pegged to this event alone. The purpose of it, in our view, is first and foremost to reveal as objectively as possible the essential nature of the problems of the national state structure of Russia, using the clearest example—Tatarstan; second, to demonstrate one approach to the solution of these problems.

Indeed, it is no secret that since it adopted the Declaration on State Sovereignty Tatarstan has attracted the attention of its former sister autonomous entities (not always, it must be said, as an example to imitate) and of

many countries in the world. The latter are interested not so much in Tatarstan as in Russia's attitude toward it.

Why was it necessary to adopt the Declaration on Tatarstan State Sovereignty? How justified was the 21 March referendum? What is the connection between the Declaration and the referendum? Was it necessary to adopt and hold them at all? What steps to strengthen sovereignty can one expect from Tatarstan in the future? What does Russia intend to do about this?

The participants in a roundtable in Kazan and in interviews conducted by our Tatarstan correspondent in Moscow tried to answer these and many other questions.

The roundtable participants were Vasiliy Likhachev, head of the Tatarstan delegation and vice president of the Republic of Tatarstan; Aleksey Kolesnik, member of the Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Presidium; Rafail Khakimov, political adviser to the president of the Republic of Tatarstan; and Marat Galeyev, deputy chief of the Republic of Tatarstan State Economics Committee.

Representing Russia in the political dialogue were Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary to the Russian Federation President and head of the Russian delegation, and Valeriy Tishkov, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy and deputy head of the Russian delegation.

Kazan: "The more dependent we are on one another, the quieter it is in the world."

[Likhachev] Certainly, Tatarstan's policy is currently geared to changing the republic's status vis-a-vis the Russian Federation. But people are wrong when they say that Tatarstan wants to be separate from Russia and, moreover, is wrecking the Federation. After working long and hard we offered Russia a new—in our view, politically original—approach to the solution of the problem. We attach immeasurably greater significance to the content of our relationship than to its form. We are endeavoring to act on the basis of such principles as respect for the Russian Federation's sovereignty—while safeguarding and implementing Tatarstan's sovereignty; preservation of the Russian Federation's territorial integrity; and attainment of a new—economic, social, and political—level of relations between Russia and Tatarstan.

[Khakimov] The Tatar people have always had this dream of reestablishing their statehood. But that is not the main reason for the policy of sovereignization. More important, in my view, is the fact that decentralization in Russia and the replacement of the managerial behemoths with structures capable of ensuring normal federal relations is long overdue.

The old form of relations between us did not work not only from the viewpoint of the peoples' realizing their right to self-determination, but also from the economic viewpoint. Look: One of the richest countries in the world—Germany—has a federal state structure. In our country too intelligent politicians have long been talking about reforming Russia. Tatarstan was one of the first to take a step in that direction by adopting the Declaration on State Sovereignty. And the referendum was merely a logical extension of the process of the country's decentralization.

[Kolesnik] Tatarstan's sovereignization policy is no different from Russia's desire for sovereignty. In fact, the Russian center, like the Union one before it, is objectively not in a position to govern such a massive state if all power is concentrated at the center and local organs merely carry out orders.

Every region, including Tatarstan, is unique. Tatarstan is the focus of the military-related chemical and machine-building industry. And no one, aside from our specialists, knows how to run it. That is why the question of local government comes to the fore, based on knowledge of the particular situation.

[Galeyev] Today new states as well as individual enterprises are becoming market entities. By virtue of its particular features Tatarstan is integrated not only into Russia's economy, but into that of the former Union as a whole. So it is natural for the republic to want to be a full member of the market and have links with partners without any intermediaries. The experience of Eastern Europe, in particular Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, is indicative. In one case this situation led to war, in the other President Havel went down in history as a wise, democratic politician.

President Yeltsin also has that chance.

[Likhachev] The main thing is for Russia to realize that it is not just a matter of Tatarstan's acquiring statehood, greater autonomy in the political sphere, and so on. It is a matter of creating an equal union with the Russian Federation. And that is definitely dependent on such a process as the federalization of Russia. It would be naive to suppose that it can be done just by adopting a Federation Treaty.

We have some serious things to say about the text of the Federation Treaty. For example, Tatarstan did not agree that sovereign republics, krays, and oblasts should be granted almost equal rights. It is nonsense when administrative and state entities have equal rights. We are not against the oblasts having greater autonomy. But it is clear that the difference between state and administrative entities should be more clear-cut in the treaty.

And another thing: In my view, the Federation Treaty has to be formed from below. And the sovereign republics should be the main members of the treaty.

Moreover, it is apparently necessary to point out the original meaning of the word "federation"—translated from the Latin it means "union." An equal union with Russia is what we are seeking. What we see at the moment is that the Federation Treaty has done as much as possible to strengthen the role of the center, of the central organs of power, which have in their hands the means of governing all the regions.

[Khakimov] We did not sign the Federation Treaty because we were well aware that we had, first, a Declaration on State Sovereignty, and, second, the will of the peoples of Tatarstan, voiced in the referendum. We are guided in our actions by the Constitutions of Tatarstan and Russia and the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of the Republic of Tatarstan. Therefore, there can be no doubt that Tatarstan is acting legally.

[Galeyev] Against the background of the armed conflicts on the margins of Russia, Tatarstan is distinctly stable, even when carrying out such explosive measures as a referendum. Naturally, this is bound to make the republic's people trust their leadership. People are hoping the Russian leadership conducts a similarly wise policy with regard to Tatarstan.

[Kolesnik] Certainly, in the current negotiating process each side is guided by its own interests. But how civilized ethnic relations are in Russia itself depends on how our relationship is formalized.

Whenever we sit down at the negotiating table we talk about what lies ahead. What was can no longer be used either as fact or as argument. Tatarstan is alive. And life is making it shape itself legislatively. And the sooner the negotiating process is completed the more guarantees there are that it will conclude in a civilized way.

[Likhachev] We believe the most civilized way of regulating mutual relations is a bilateral treaty on an equal basis. In the first place, as has been said before, we are going back to the original meaning of the word "federation," and, in the second place, this makes it possible to implement every people's, in this case the Tatarstan people's right to self-determination. Indeed, the processes of recognition of the need for autonomy have affected not only the Tatar part of the population (which, incidentally, is around 48 percent), but members of other nationalities.

[Kolesnik] Let us remind ourselves once again what sovereignty is. International law defines it in two main terms—territorial integrity, and supremacy of the laws of the state in question on that territory. In this case territory is seen as a legal rather than a geographical concept. It goes something like this: In the context of the demarcation of powers between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation laws have supremacy on the territory of Tatarstan within the framework of Russia's powers, while in the sphere of our own powers, our laws apply.

All this makes it possible to speak of an association between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan. And that is entirely feasible both at the level of the Constitution of Tatarstan and at the level of the Russian Constitution.

[Khakimov] When the Tatar Republic was formed in 1920 by decree, it possessed many rights which unfortunately were later taken away. Therefore the question arises today of guaranteeing our rights. The Federation Treaty offers no such guarantees.

We won our sovereignty with difficulty. And therefore we want the Russian Federation to recognize it in the form in which it was proclaimed. That is one guarantee of our sovereignty. Another is that Tatarstan will be recognized by the international community. If we do not have these guarantees, there can be no confidence that our sovereignty will not be buried again some day. And we cannot deviate from these points of principle in the talks process.

[Galeyev] Many people are now saying that we should move on from politics to economics. The conclusion of a bilateral treaty and the drafting of that treaty—that is politics, in principle. But in this case the dividing line is very unclear. For instance, the resolution of nearly all economic questions in Tatarstan is at a standstill because the ownership question has not been resolved. I think this is causing considerable difficulties in Russia too. Therefore the talks process should be accelerated.

Tatarstan's sovereignization does not preclude participation in Russia-wide economic reforms, rather the reverse—it makes their implementation more effective, since in Tatarstan they will be put into practice with due regard for the republic's specific characteristics.

[Likhachev] I do not think it is fortuitous that our republic today has economic agreements with all the CIS countries. (Incidentally, today the majority of them are UN members). Basically Tatarstan has been recognized de facto. For this to become de jure recognition, we need a bilateral treaty with the Russian Federation. And here, from the viewpoint of the theory of sovereignty, we must distinguish between two things: the international legal status of a sovereign state, and the form of realization of that status. Representatives of Tatarstan's national radical movement are complaining a great deal to us today: Why have you started talking about some kind of delegation of powers? But the whole world is built on this today! When a state joins the United Nations, it takes on certain commitments. We can see the very same process in action in the conclusion of bilateral treaties. We are now talking not about the demarcation of powers, but about delegating them. Tatarstan as a sovereign state chooses its form of relations with the Russian Federation. It could choose the form of a confederation with some other state too...

In any case, these relations should be based on recognition of panhuman values, respect for the human individual, and the principles of voluntariness and equality, and they should be characterized by cooperation and respect for the norms and principles of international war and constitutional commitments. All this should be enshrined in the document.

I should also observe that there is no such thing as an absolute concept of sovereignty. That is ridiculous—to live in an interconnected world and talk about total independence.

[Kolesnik] And the world is quieter when we depend on each other. The more levers states have for influencing

one another, the quieter it is in the world... A paradoxical thought, but I think it is so. [Roundtable ends]

Moscow: "The more autonomous the republics, the more integral the Federation."

G. Burbulis: The Federation Treaty is an enormous achievement in the constitutional and legal resolution of our Russia-wide problems.

[Burbulis] Today it is the guarantee of stability in Russia, and creates serious prospects for constitutional reform in the country.

Tatarstan had its own specific position on the Federation Treaty. This was due largely to the peculiar nature of the development of political processes in the republic in recent years. We therefore took and still take a sensitive and tactful attitude to this specific position. Over the year our relations have been structured in such a way as to avoid creating additional problems and difficulties. The work that was done, in particular, during our recent meeting (3-4 August—editor's note) confirms the commitment of the Tatarstan leadership too to achieving ways of regulating our mutual relations, which should be based on a joint interest in preserving Russia's territorial integrity and ensuring a redistribution of powers between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan that would promote the tasks of economic and political reforms. And finally, preventing any decisions that could exacerbate the situation or prompt any new difficulties in our mutual relations.

Today we are united in our mutual commitment to putting to rights the complex legacy we inherited from the Soviet period of our history. The treaty whose draft we are working on could become a constructive document compensating for the situation indicated in your question—Tatarstan's participation in the Federation Treaty.

[Mikhaylin] What, in your opinion, are the main reasons for Tatarstan's desire to change its status with regard to the Federation?

[Burbulis] I would like to think that this is due to a sincere desire to achieve a form of political, economic, and legal status that would be oriented with the maximum effectiveness toward the interests of the majority of Tatarstan's population. If it turns out that this—rather than opportunistic, nationalist, or other such factors—is made paramount, then we will do everything to promote the legal consolidation of this situation.

[Mikhaylin] Could Russia, in principle, sign a treaty with Tatarstan as an equal? Can a Federation and one of its components reach an agreement on the basis of equal rights?

[Burbulis] If you take the Soviet view of the idea of equal rights, our relations are an insoluble problem at this stage. In that event we would constantly be oppressed by the idea of "top and bottom," "boss and subordinate," and so forth. But there are a whole series of achievements of world civilization connected with the right to free expression of will and the just distribution of powers, connected with citizens' rights. A more complex form of relations is needed now. And that is what we are moving toward. Therefore the term "equal rights" in itself should not intimidate or weaken us. It could well be endowed with content appropriate to our common desire—the establishment of the Russian Federation as an integral state in which the republics have the right to sovereignty and autonomous activity. The stronger and more autonomous the republics, the stronger and more integral the federation itself.

[Mikhaylin] Can you predict the development of events after Russia signs a treaty with Tatarstan based on equal rights?

[Burbulis] Our task is to stimulate the treaty process. And even within the framework of the Federation Treaty each republic is entitled to specify the range of powers and competence by means of which it will be able most effectively to deal with its problems.

V. Tishkov: Tatarstan should accede to the Federation Treaty.

[Mikhaylin] Do you think it is possible to envisage the free development of the Tatar people and other peoples inhabiting Russian Federation territory and the implementation of their right to self-determination, without the existence of an independent state?

[Tishkov] Yes, it is possible. And if, in this case, we are talking about the Tatar people, their free development is conceivable and feasible only within the framework of the Russian Federation, since three-fourths (or even more) of the Tatars live outside Tatarstan. Even if Tatarstan's status as a sovereign state is strengthened and implemented, all the same, on questions of realizing the rights, interests, and cultural development of the Tatars, as the second most numerous people on Russia's territory, the participation of the administrative organs of the Russian Federation as a whole is essential.

[Mikhaylin] What is your view: Should Tatarstan, in the context of everything that is happening there now and in view of the fact that a draft bilateral treaty is being drawn up, sign the Federation Treaty?

[Tishkov] That would be highly desirable. If we achieved consensus on a treaty between the federal organs of power and the organs of power of the Republic of Tatarstan, its signing could be accompanied by Tatarstan's acceding to the Federation Treaty. To say nothing of signing the Federation Treaty, because its text differs from the text of the bilateral treaty: It enshrines a far wider range of rights and powers for Tatarstan. And in this respect it is difficult to find a form of interaction between the two, but I repeat, it would be highly desirable for the Russian Federation and for the general political situation. But our Tatar colleagues argue that the Federation Treaty is unacceptable to Tatarstan, and Tatarstan cannot sign it. At the moment I find it hard to say what lies behind this stance. Apparently it is based

on documents that exist in Tatarstan itself—the Declaration of State Sovereignty, the referendum results, and so forth. But I think the signing of both documents would be the best possible outcome for our work. Although if the Federation Treaty is not signed by Tatarstan, the signing of the bilateral treaty would all the same represent enormous progress in our relations.

[Mikhaylin] What is your view of the processes currently taking place in Tatarstan? I have in mind, in particular, the transfer of law enforcement organs to the republic's jurisdiction, the adoption of the law on languages, and so forth.

[Tishkov] The processes taking place there are extremely important and interesting, and they contain much that is positive. For instance, the acquisition of economic sovereignty and the control of the utilization of natural resources. This level of management is to be preferred to the days when everything was dictated from the center. Moreover an important process of political sovereignization and the formation of autonomous organs of power is taking place in Tatarstan. To say nothing of the processes relating to the revival and development of the language and culture. In the era of "developed socialism," Tatar culture, and particularly the language, suffered very severely...

But on the other hand, there is no way one can agree to certain decisions, which lack the responsibility proper to politicians. I am talking about control of the law enforcement organs, their own customs service, the right to share out military property, citizenship... On these matters we are hardly likely to find points of contact. In particular, the Russian delegation is not prepared to agree to the proposals formulated by national movements.

I should observe that on Tatarstan's side, unlike Russia's, not only representatives of the organs of power, but also leaders of the national movement are taking part in the talks. Can you imagine what would happen if Vasilyev or Zhirinovskiy were to take part in the talks on Russia's side? Naturally, it takes a great deal of effort to convince the representatives of the national movement of anything... Yet these should be authoritative talks between organs of power.

[Mikhaylin] What date would you suggest as a rough guide for the signing of the bilateral treaty?

[Tishkov] Mid-September. Apparently the presidents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan are to meet then to sum up the results of more than a year's work by the delegations.

Muskovites Blame Caucasians for Crime

OW3108134092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More than one half of Muskovites (63 percent) blame growing crime in Moscow above all on Caucasians.

Tending to regard Caucasians as a source of crime more than other population groups are the military (77 percent of respondents), followed by workers (67 percent) and pensioners (66 percent).

29 percent of Muskovites argue that Caucasians are as much responsible for crime as others in the capital.

Most tolerant toward Caucasians are people, employed in nonstate new structures (40 percent). Closest to these views are professionals and office employees: 31 percent of them do not blame arrivals from the Caucasian republics for the escalation of crime in Moscow.

The question proved hard to answer for 8 percent of respondents the poll was conducted by VCIOM by August 24-28 among 1826 people.

Chubays Addresses Groups on Privatization

LD2908111792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0623 GMT 29 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Khabarovsk August 29 TASS—In Russia, there are the necessary prerequisites for a successful implementation of the privatisation programme, Anatoliy Chubays, deputy prime minister and chairman of Russia's State Committee for the Management of Property, said today when speaking in Khabarovsk at a meeting of representatives of the territorial Committees for the Management of State Property of the Far East Regions.

Privatisation is becoming "the core of the reform" in Russia. The fortunate outcome of transformations as a whole will depend on the success of privatisation, Chubays emphasised.

Applications for privatisation were filed by more than 55,000 enterprises—about 30 per cent of the total—by the middle of this month, the deputy prime minister said. The applications of 11,000 enterprises have been fully complied with. By the beginning of August, the budget revenue from privatisation at all levels ran at about 10,000 million roubles, he added.

Having pointed out that privatisation has become a normal, "routine work" in all regions of Russia, Chubays at the same time expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of it.

Vice Premier Chubays Visits Blagoveshchensk

PM0209094192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian Vice Premier A. Chubays in Blagoveshchensk"]

[Text] On the morning of 31 August the Russian Vice Premier and those accompanying him arrived in Blagoveshchensk from Khabarovsk on a special flight.

Anatoliy Borisovich had several business meetings with the oblast administration, the leaders of enterprises and commercial firms, and with deputies and the press. The guests visited a ship building plant and cotton spinning factory in Blagoveshchensk and went to an agricultural rayon near the city—Ivanovskiy Rayon. The main topic of the vice premier's meetings and talks was the privatization of state property, whose pace in the Amur region lags behind the progress of reforms in Russia and is one of the lowest in the Far East region.

Chechens Deny Support to Abkhaz 'Militants'

OW2808151392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechniya has shaken off the responsibility for the arrival in Georgia of militants supporting Abkhazia. On Thursday evening [27 August], a delegation of the Chechen parliament led by the parliament's Vice-Chairman Hussein Marayev, had talks in Tbilisi with Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani.

Marayev said that the Chechen official authorities have nothing to do with the sending of armed supporters of Abkhazia to Georgia. He said those people were fanatics who will not cloud traditional friendship between the Chechen and Georgian peoples.

On Thursday [27 August], the Chechens living in Georgia sent their delegation to Groznyy. The delegates wish to discuss with President Dudayev ways of ending the bloodshed and preventing Chechen militants from going to Georgia.

Kabardino-Balkar Discusses Abkhaz Situation

PM2808115592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Ali Kazikhanov: "Kabardino-Balkaria Supreme Soviet Discusses Situation in Abkhazia"]

[Text] Nalchik—An emergency session of the Kabardino-Balkaria Supreme Soviet has been held in Nalchik. The main topic for discussion is the situation in fraternal Abkhazia.

Since the very beginning of the conflict Kabardino-Balkaria has been actively involved in efforts on the prevention of bloodshed, the withdrawal of Georgian State Council forces from Abkhazia, and the peaceful solution of the conflict. A special fund was set up in the republic to collect money. People have already contributed around 10 million rubles, and deliveries of humanitarian aid to the fraternal republic have been organized. Thousands of volunteers are signing on for the detachments that are being set up by social and political organizations.

Nonetheless, many people's deputies with whom I talked on the eve of the session publicly expressed concern over the development of the conflict in Abkhazia and bewilderment at the Russian leadership's vacillation. Despite a number of statements by B. Yeltsin on his intervention in the conflict and his efforts to hold talks, the people's deputies expressed their displeasure at the delayed political intervention, demanding immediate talks rather than a postponement until 3 September.

One draft resolution submitted by a group of deputies for discussion by the session says: "The introduction of Georgian State Council forces into Abkhazia should be regarded as an act of aggression, an immediate blockade against Georgia should be declared, the republics, krays, and oblasts of North Caucasus should be urged to support the blockade, and the demands by the Adyge republic for an emergency session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet should be backed. Otherwise the question of the republic's withdrawal from the federation should be raised."

Yakutia Introduces Special Regime for Visits

LD3008092592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Yakutia is introducing a special regime [osobyy rezhim] for entering and staying in 10 rayons of the republic, ANI News Agency reports. As of 1 September, one may only visit these rayons by invitation sanctioned by the local administration. On arrival one must register within three days. The reasons for instituting the special regime are the uncontrolled export of precious minerals, raw materials, and other natural resources from Yakutia.

Magadan Oblast Gold Extraction Decreases

OW0109130492 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0715 GMT 1 Sep 92

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] Due to depletion of alluvial deposits, gold extraction in Magadan Oblast decreased almost twofold during the past 15 years. The only hope is ore gold, of which about 800 tonnes have already been discovered. However, (?Almazoloto) carries out the development of ore deposits at a very low rate. In this connection, Mikhaylov, head of the oblast administration, proposed to the Russian Government joint actions aimed at hastening the rate of ore extraction at the Kuvaka and Evinskaya deposits.

International Affairs

Results of Black Sea Working Meeting Noted

LD3108143492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] In accordance with the preliminary agreement, a working meeting of state delegations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, headed by Durdynets, the first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, and Yarovoy, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, took place on 30 August in Kiev at the talks on issues of the Black Sea Fleet. The focus of the meeting was the elaboration of specific agreements to implement the Yalta agreement of 3 August on principles of formation of the naval forces of Ukraine and the naval forces of the Russian Federation on the basis of the Black Sea Fleet of the former USSR.

The sides agreed on the fact that the speediest signing of the entire complex of documents, which make articles of Yalta agreement more specific, will assist in effectively putting the agreement into reality and in further stabilizing the situation in the Black Sea Fleet and, as a result, will make it considerably easier to achieve the main goal of the agreement—the formation of the full-bodied naval forces of Ukraine and the navy of the Russian Federation on the Black Sea before the end of 1995.

Set forth were approaches and stands of the sides regarding priorities in implementing the Yalta agreement and the succession of examining separate issues. After a thorough exchange of opinions, the state delegations started examining specific draft agreements. On the basis of results of the talks, the sides worked out a draft agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on naval symbols of the Black Sea Fleet for the transitional period. It will be submitted for examination by the presidents of both countries in the very near future. Leaders of the state delegations agreed that the next meeting would take place in Moscow in the first 10 days of September.

Tension Eased at Sevastopol Naval Academies

LD3108001892 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Anxiety and tension has decreased considerably in collectives of two Sevastopol higher naval academies following a meeting with representatives of the Military Education Directorate of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine. As is known, transferring these educational establishments to the Ukrainian jurisdiction was received in many different ways in the Black Sea Fleet and in the academies.

Servicemen have the right to choose and can take the oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine or to the people of Russia, said Colonel Volodymyr Pylypchuk, deputy head of the Military Education Directorate of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine, at a meeting with the teaching staff of Sevastopol Higher Naval Engineer Academy and the Black Sea Higher Naval Academy. Those who do not want to take either of the oaths can sign an agreement on doing military service or studying in the higher educational establishment, and officers can sign a contract on doing military service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine until they reach retirement age. Those who wish can request transfer to the Russian Navy for doing further military service. This position by the Defense Ministry of Ukraine received the approval and support of the overwhelming majority of officers of the academies, it is stressed in the release by the press service of Ukraine's Naval Forces (?organization) group. At the meeting, special attention was paid to issues of social and legal protection of servicemen and members of their families.

Rukh Urges UN Role in Nagorno-Karabakh

OW2808212492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1933 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Ukrainian Popular Movement Rukh made an appeal to the UN in connection with events in Nagorno-Karabakh. The document states that the territorial conflict will turn into genocide against the Armenian and Azeri peoples. Rukh qualified the aerial bombardment of Stepanakert as a terrorist act. Rukh called on the UN to intervene in the conflict for the sake of peaceful regulation. This was reported by the agency KHARKOV NEWS.

Nuclear Disarmament 'Going on in a Balanced Way'

OW3108193292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press center, at a session in Kiev the special commission on implementation and inspection of the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Weapons concluded by the USSR and the USA on July 31, 1991, succeeded in resolving most disputable issues. The Ukrainian radio said that the main unresolved issue is the question of means needed for the liquidation of weapons.

Taking part in the session were representatives from the USA, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

At a briefing on Monday the U.S. Ambassador Steven Styner responded to the question "Is nuclear disarmament in Ukraine going on too fast?" that, in his opinion, the process is going on in a balanced way.

National Affairs

Rukh Circulates Statement on Kravchuk Reaction

LD3008160192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] On 29 August, Rukh Press circulated a statement of the People's Movement of Ukraine signed by its chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil. Rukh says, in particular, that the Ukrainian Information Agency, juggling with the notions on the instructions of the president, considers criticism to be an attempt to divide the people and sow interethnic or social hostility and discord, and by doing so, shows lack of understanding of the generally accepted principles of democracy, including the right for critical assessments by the opposition against the official state policy. They warn everyone who resorts to such actions that they will be turned out of Ukraine without the right to ever visit it.

Rukh thinks that the statement by UKRINFORM agency is a violation of the UN and CSCE principles. Rukh categorically condemns the mentioned statement.

Kravchuk on Ties, Bread, Money, Medicine, Taxes

PM0109125592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Viktor Filippov report: "Ukrainian President Promises His People Cheap Bread, Abundance of Medicines, and Milder Taxes"]

[Text] On 27 August, L. Kravchuk flew to Zaporozhye for the day—that, in the president's words, "very interesting city" from the viewpoint of the severity of its ecological, industrial, and agrarian problems.

Before the opening of the Supreme Soviet session, at which there will be debates on economic, financial, and political aspects of the market reform, Kravchuk considered it necessary "to mix with the people and consult with them in order to have an idea of what is happening on the ground."

On Russia and Money

Some 80 percent of Ukraine's economic ties are with Russia. According to Kravchuk, Ukraine and Russia are trying to put them on a new footing. It is, however, difficult to achieve accords when President B. Yeltsin is concerned about advantages for his people, and Kravchuk is concerned about them for his own. However, what is important is that both presidents have the firm intention to reach agreement.

Russia, with its own printing press, nevertheless, does not even have the resources to supply itself with sufficient money for circulation. Therefore Ukraine has had to introduce coupons, which in Kravchuk's opinion, are surrogate rubles. Russia does what it considers necessary with the ruble proceeding from what is really possible—and this is its right. The coupon is forced to share the ruble's fate. This will be the case until Ukraine introduces its own real currency—the hryvnya.

Price of Bread Will Not Change

The peasants have sold the state 10 of the 14 million tonnes of grain which the Cabinet of Ministers nominated. In Kravchuk's opinion, these 10 million tonnes are sufficient to feed the people, if each kilogram of corn is strictly monitored. The situation is complex, but the president answered the anxious question: "Will the price of bread increase?" in the following way: "The price of bread will not change."

On the subject of the agrarian reform, Kravchuk stated that he, his representatives in the oblasts and rayons, and the soviets will not destroy the economic relationships which have developed in the countryside. Let the peasants themselves decide how they will live in the future. However, for the moment, it is necessary to preserve the large farms which are the basic commodity producers.

Taxes, Conversion, and Medicines

The president considers that the current system of taxes is suffocating the commodity producers. He has charged specialists with the task of devising a new concept of taxation and intends to present it for scrutiny at the Supreme Soviet's next scheduled session.

Having familiarized himself with the "Radiopribor" production association's unique communications systems for the army, navy, and space, which they have developed themselves, the president stated: It is necessary to preserve and support such enterprises so that specialists who are capable of world-class work do not become dispersed. There will be a need for their output.

People suffering from ailments have begun to hope that they will live to see medicines in abundance. Kravchuk reported that Ukraine has concluded contracts with Germany to build pharmaceutical plants which will set up first and foremost the production of those medicines without which the sick simply cannot live.

Kravchuk visited Dnepropetrovsk 28 August with the same aim—that of mixing with the people.

Amount of Grain Sold to State 'Sufficient'

LD3008121292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] The amount of grain which has already been sold to the state will be sufficient to meet the demands of the republic's population. This was declared by President Leonid Kravchuk in an interview for the newspaper PRAVDA UKRAINY. However, he said, bread is required not only for nourishing people. Taking into account that agricultural farms have grain this year, the president expressed certainty that Ukraine will be with bread.

Sugar Production Expected To Increase This Year

PM0109103792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by V. Pidchenko, from Kharkov Oblast]

[Text] [Pidchenko] Sugar is turning into real money for Ukraine. What is more, the government has improved incentives to sugar beet growers. They now receive five times more sugar than in past years as payment in kind, on condition that the state order for sugar beet is fulfilled.

So it is no accident that the area sown to sugar beet in Kharkov Oblast alone has increased by almost 15 percent this year. This is an unprecedented increase.

Practically all the oblast's 11 sugar refineries are undergoing reconstruction with a view to processing beets within optimum deadlines, that is within 75-80 days of the harvest, rather than by New Year.

[A.M. Gadyatskiy, departmental head at the "Kharkov-Sakhar", Kharkov Sugar, Association] As far as I know, Ukraine is not going to be leaving its neighbors without sugar. In any case, intergovernmental agreements on sugar supplies will not be revised.

Trade Unions Demand Resignation of Government

OW2808160692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Ratushniy, vice-chairman of the Ukrainian trade-union association, Solidarity of the Working People, insists on the resignation of the Ukrainian Government and parliament, the news agency KHARKOV NOVOSTI reports.

He said that if the government does not resign before October 15, the association will issue a call for a general strike.

Bank Official on Problems of Monetary Reform

AU2708194592 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Aug 92 p 3

[Report by Kostyantyn Paryshkura: "The Ruble Rescues the Coupon"]

[Text] **Mykola Syvulskyy, first deputy chairman of the board of Ukraine's National Bank, declared at a meeting with journalists that rumors about secret preparations for introducing the hryvnya in Ukraine are unfounded.**

He declared that the population will receive detailed information on the procedure for introducing the hryvnya that will only be exchanged for coupons. M. Syvulskyy then touched upon the problem of mutual settlements with Russia. He accused the former leadership of Russia's Central Bank of introducing additional links in the mutual settlements—cash account centers [CAC] [rozrakhunkovi kasovi tsentry (RKTs)]. This has caused serious technological failures in processing payment documents and has put Ukrainian enterprises in a very difficult situation. This, in turn, compelled Ukraine's National Bank to resort to credit emission on a huge scale. M. Syvulskyy admitted that the introduction of CAC is supposed to protect Russia's interests. As such, it is justified. However, M. Syvulskyy did not approve of the methods in accordance with which leaders of banks of CIS states are confronted with a fait accompli. CAC, he went on to state, have not fulfilled their role, but, on the contrary, have led to enormous abuses. Today, the situation has changed. The leadership of Russia agrees to our strategic course toward returning to the systems of settlements that existed by the beginning of the year, but, here, there are certain juridical barriers—decisions adopted by Russia's Government, Supreme Council, and president. Interstate agreements are needed.

The introduction of the cashless coupon in September, continued M. Syvulskyy, may cause problems in our relations with Russia.

Vadym Hetman, chairman of the board of Ukraine's National Bank, although he is still on leave, also turned up at the meeting. He announced that it was also on his initiative that the ruble had been introduced in the Crimea.

"I have long proposed that the ruble be returned for parallel circulation, but, at that time, I did not meet with understanding. Today, we are buying 5 billion rubles in Russia to create ruble intervention for the purpose of strengthening the coupon."

The two leaders of the National Bank accused enterprises of unwillingness to proceed to a market system and the government and the Supreme Council—of hampering structural market changes. It was under the pressure of producers that the bank was compelled to resort to credit emission and maintaining card indexes. M. Syvulskyy expressed regret in connection with the preservation of the cash transactions form that makes it necessary to credit Russian suppliers, and declared that this is inadmissible, but the government must recall that it is government and that it is time to implement laws, including the law "On Bankruptcy."

M. Syvulskyy rescinded the accusation of the National Bank of delaying mutual settlements within Ukraine: This is either poor work of the post office or insolvency of the consumer. Everything else is outside the National Bank's jurisdiction.

V. Suslov, main adviser of the president's Economic Service, who was present at the meeting, expressed the following opinion: He does not believe in the measures for strengthening the coupon. He also declared that monetary reform in Ukraine is not yet ready and that the

way out is in introducing the cashless coupon with a subsequent transition to the hryvnya.

Government Not To Join Military-Political Blocs

OW2808160092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said that Ukraine does not look at any state as its enemy and will not join any military-political blocs. However, the news agency KHARKOV NOVOSTI quotes him as telling the newspaper HOLOS UKRAYINY (THE VOICE OF UKRAINE) that "taking historical experience into account Ukraine cannot indulge in pacific complacency and will play an active part in the future system of collective European security".

Commenting on Ukraine's relations with Central and Eastern Europe, he said that the USSR's former Warsaw-Pact and CMEA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] partners "may be sure that Ukraine will represent a solid barrier against roll-backs to conservative mentality and a reliable partner in the movement towards a common market."

Kravchuk Issues Decree on Civil Aviation Safety

MK2808075592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 92 p 2

[NEGA report under the "Facts, Events, People" rubric: "Kravchuk's 'Air' Decree"]

[Text] President Kravchuk has issued a Decree "On Measures to Guarantee the Security of Ukraine's Air Traffic."

In line with the decree, Ukraine's authorized representatives confirmed the Treaty on the Council of Signatories [gosudarstv-uchastnikov] of the Agreement on Civil Aviation and the Use of Airspace, adopted in Minsk in December 1991. The decree provides for an auditors' enquiry into aviation disasters affecting the interests of two or more states, and also the certification of Ukraine's aircraft.

President Decrees Introduction of Honorary Award

AU2908185992 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Aug 92 p 3

["Ukrainian Presidential Decree on Introducing Honorary Award To Be Conferred by Ukraine's President" issued in Kiev on 18 August]

[Text] In accordance with item 9-2 of Article 114-5 of Ukraine's Constitution, I resolve as follows:

1. To introduce Honorary Reward To Be Conferred by Ukraine's President. The honorary award will be conferred by Ukraine's president upon citizens to acknowledge their personal achievements in the building of a sovereign and democratic state, development of Ukraine's economy, science, and culture, and for active peace-keeping, philanthropic, charity, and public activity.

The awards will be conferred in accordance with the decree of Ukraine's president.

2. To approve the Regulations on the Honorary Award To Be Conferred By Ukraine's President, the description of the Honorary Award, and the specimen of the certificate issued on the award.

L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine
Kiev, 18 August 1992

Coalition of Democratic Forces Formed

LD2808171692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] A Coalition of Democratic Forces has been officially formed in the Nikolayev region of Ukraine. It includes various political parties, movements and public organizations. As it is seen from its constituent statement, at the current stage of the construction of Ukrainian statehood the coalition sees as its main goal, the collection of signatures for holding a referendum on a pre-scheduled termination of powers of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. In this connection, the coalition stresses that it is open for all who support the idea of holding a referendum.

Green Party Preparing Own Draft Constitution

AU2808124992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The Green Party is preparing its own draft Constitution of Ukraine. This was stated by its chairman Vitaliy Kononov. He believes that the already available draft is not that type of document that can properly regulate the state system in our young independent republic. In the opinion of the leader of the Greens, their draft will conform to international standards and will be fundamentally new. This is reported by the newspaper KHRESHCHATYK (published in Kiev).

New Opposition Party To Hold Congress in Odessa

LD2808214992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMt 28 Aug 92

[Text] The unpopular Ukrainian Government of Vitold Fokin seems to be acquiring still more active and organizationally established opposition in the form of the Workers and Industrialists Party, which aspires to power. The first congress of the new Ukrainian Workers and Industrialists Party is planned for Odessa in November of this year.

Belarus

KGB Chairman on Heightened Activities, New Ties

LD3108172892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Limanovskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 31 TASS—"The interest of foreign secret services to Belarus has always been high because of its strategic location. The interest has increased of late", Chairman of the Belarusian KGB Eduard Shirkovskiy told the local "ZVYAZDA" newspaper on Monday [31 August].

There is information on attempts of foreigners to get secret military, industrial, scientific and technical information, he said, but did not elaborate.

"If our state wants to fully protect its sovereignty and independence, we should increase the activity of our special services", according to Shirkovskiy.

However, the KGB chief spoke also about cooperation with foreign secret services. He mentioned an operation in which his employees discovered a big batch of illegal drugs in transit through Belarus and handed over the information to Western colleagues. The Belarusian Government is preparing a number of agreements on legal aspects of exchanging information with secret services of other countries, according to Shirkovskiy.

Troops Withdrawal From Tajik Border Causes Alarm

OW3108163192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus and Tajikistan have developed problems at their talks on the return home of the Belarusian military. Sources close to the Prime Minister of Belarus Vyacheslav Kebich have said the leaders of Tajikistan are alarmed over the fact that after the withdrawal of Belarusian border guards the already rather transparent state border may remain utterly unprotected. Tajikistan's government experts say that in that case they the country will not have enough men even to set up posts on the border. Yet, Deputy Defence Minister Colonel-General Pyotr Chaus, who visited Dushanbe the other day, has managed to secure the return of 132 servicemen to Belarus and agree on the withdrawal of another 200 men in the near future.

Belarus insists that its military should be withdrawn from Central Asia no later than October.

Shushkevich Urges Return to Planned Economy

OW3108193792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, a few days after returning from a trip to South Korea, spoke Monday [31 August] in Minsk asserting again his intention to return "certain elements of planned economy, specifically the five-year plan system" to the republic's economy.

I became certain once again in Seoul that we cannot emerge from this crisis without a realistic plan of national economic administration," said the Belarus leader. He called the position of the republic's State Economics and Planning Committee "absurd".

The government structure, in Shushkevich's opinion "isn't working as it should".

Responding to an INTERFAX correspondent's question about whether he feels the Cabinet of Ministers is to blame for this, Shushkevich said, "Certain state structures are not doing their job here, and I don't take the blame off myself". The parliament head further spoke against effort to name a particular guilty party.

For more detailed information about the Belarus Parliament Chairman's press conference see INTERFAX'S "Presidential Report" for September 1.

Economic Crime Assuming Organized Forms

LD3108173992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 31 TASS—Economic crimes make up 75 per cent of all crimes registered in the republic. Law enforcement agencies' staff say dealers, corrupt elements and underworld leaders are now being consolidated. Organised groups of criminals are being put together and money gained illegally are laundered. These groups are expected to purchase real property, controlling interest and reap huge funds during the privatization process shortly.

Vladimir Shafarenko, head of the Belarusian Interior Ministry's Department for Combatting Economic Crime, said in an interview with the RESPUBLIKA newspaper: "Economic crime, in assuming organised forms and the professional nature, is becoming a strong factor that can influence the political situation."

He noted that units of the Department for Combatting Economic Crime encounter almost daily new types of crime. He said the state sector accounts for the greatest number of wrongdoings. Over seven months of this year, department staff uncovered upwards of 1,200 theft cases

and 10,000 robberies at Belarusian enterprises and disclosed over 150 facts of bribing officials.

Payoffs in striking deals is becoming a customary matter. The issues of raw and other material and equipment supply, the conclusion of contracts and agreements and the provision of premises for firms, small and joint enterprises are not resolved without payoffs. Bribetaking affected all branches of the economy with all forms of ownership. Law enforcement agencies staff believe a uniform state programme for counteraction to corruption and bribery is needed.

The Department for Combatting Economic Crime is now exploring all these problems. This work involves scientists and public prosecutor's office and court employees. The results of their work are used to draft bills on combatting corruption and payoffs.

Official Notes Joint Ventures, Investments

OW3108193492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] External economic ties committee official Sergey Vekshu has said that Poland is a party to more joint ventures in Belarus than any other country. "The geographic proximity must have made itself felt", Vekshu said. "Besides many Polish firms themselves are based on foreign capital and it so happens that West European investors settle in Belarus".

Germany is number two in terms of the number of joint ventures registered in Belarus, but it is the indisputable leader as to the volume of production. "We cannot find a better partner than Germany", Sergey Vekshu said and confirmed that he expressed the official point of view. For instance, one of the biggest enterprises in the republic, "Belwest" (founded together with the Salamander firm, of Germany) accounted for one-third of the output of all joint ventures in Belarus in 1991. Last year it produced two million pairs of footwear.

Another joint venture, Frebor is the sole manufacturer of vital components for the kidney machines in the CIS.

Twenty six million D-marks invested into the furniture factory in the city of Molodechno has enabled it to introduce advanced, wasteless wood-processing know-how, including laser cutting.

Moldova

Dniester Leader Praises Russian Mediation Role

OW3108192892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the Dniester Republic Igor Smirnov has said that his further participation in settlement talks would promote stabilization in the region and the political dialogue. Igor Smirnov sent a message to that effect to President Yeltsin on the eve of the meeting the Russian President is going to have with President Mircea Snegur, of Moldova in Moscow on Tuesday [1 September].

In his message Igor Smirnov speaks highly of Russia's "active mediation in Dniester, which has brought bloodshed to an end, made possible the first steps towards a political settlement of the conflict and caused certain changes in Moldova's policies in terms of observing the rights of the Russian population".

The stop to attempts to do away with Dniester by force is equivalent to the defeat of ultra-right nationalists in Moldova, which can largely promote the emergence of genuine democracy in Moldova, based on universal values, Igor Smirnov said.

Mosanu Favors Dropping Term 'Moldovan People'

AU0109070892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1744 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 31/8/1992—Three years were celebrated on August 31 at Chisinau and in other localities of the Republic of Moldova to mark three years since Romanian was adopted as the official language of the Republic of Moldova.

Vladimir, the archbishop of Chisinau and Moldova held a religious service Monday, August 31, at Chisinau Cathedral and another one at the statue of Holy Stephen the Great in the Moldovan capital, followed by a moment of silence to the memory of the dead in the fight for independence.

The speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Alexandru Mosanu, made a statement on the occasion, mentioning that the law on the adoption of Romanian as the official language of Moldova was the first breach of the draconian system of denationalisation in the Soviet empire, an important step in the restoration of the Romanian traditions, of the Latin writing.

The speaker mentioned among the elements that have hindered the right application of the said law the weakness of the state power at all levels, the fact that certain people were interested to make the law be neglected, and Russian be maintained as the official language, the leaning towards CIS, that encourages the non-application of the law by Russophiles, who still hope that Moldova will return to the Russian empire.

Mr. Mosanu mentioned that it was necessary that Moldova identifies itself with the Romanian traditions, with the Romanian spirit, that the term of 'Moldovan people' be given up, as "it is only a dogma imposed by the colonizers to separate us from the Romanians," an

assertion that was long applauded by the audience. "Union, Romanians, brethren" was chanted.

Passport Order Placed With Germany

AU3108133192 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Aug 92 p 5

[Commentary by Svetlana Chala, HOLOS UKRAYINY special correspondent: "[Internal] Passports for Citizens of Moldova"]

[Text] About 1 million passports—this is an order placed by the Moldovan Government in Germany. The passports will be delivered to Chisinau by the end of the year.

Documents will also be provided for persons who have no citizenship. They will probably be quite numerous among the Moldovan population frightened by the country's possible union with Romania. It is most likely that the greater part of Trans-Dniestria, as well as the southern part of the republic, inhabited mainly by the Gagauz and the Bulgarians, will not adopt Moldovan citizenship. Unless the causes that have led to the emergence of the armed conflict in the Dniester region are eliminated, Moldova risks losing about one-fourth of its potential citizens. However, passports are being printed for them. When will they be issued? Leontiy Sukholitko, chief of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs Passports Department, answered this question as follows:

"So far, it is difficult to tell. Parliament must work out a whole package of laws and, primarily, determine, on a legislative basis, the territorial and administrative structure of the republic. Only then will we be able to talk about a specific time.

However, while the time when the passports will be issued to Moldovan citizens is still uncertain, the cost of manufacturing them is quite definite: $1.02 per passport. This cost, in the opinion of that same Sukholitko, is perfectly acceptable. Other countries charge $1.5 or $2 per passport.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Dispatches Envoy to Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2808220492 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] As reported by the press service of the republic's president, in order to implement the agreements reached in Alma-Ata during tripartite talks between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan, on 28 August Nursultan Nazarbayev sent his personal representatives to the two states involved in the conflict. They have been included in the working party.

The mediatory role in Azerbaijan will be performed by Ganiy Kasymov, head of the International Department of the president's office and of the Cabinet of Ministers, and in Armenia by Asan Kozhakov, head of a directorate at the Foreign Ministry. Their functions will include monitoring compliance with the agenda of the memorandum adopted at the talks on the cessation of hostilities from 1 September this year, and participation in the preparation of documents for the upcoming meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan.

Hopes for Cease-Fire

OW3108161092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, has expressed the hope that the Alma-Ata agreements on resolving the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan will be observed and that the two sides will have ceased fire by the stipulated deadline of September 1st. Speaking in Alma-Ata at a meeting between chief editors from the republics newspapers, the president emphasised that over 5,000 people had died during the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh and that it was essential to make the utmost effort to put an end to this war.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Meets PRC Envoy

LD2808220392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] On 28 August, Serikbolsyn Abdildin, chairman of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet, received Zhang Deguang, the PRC's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Kazakhstan, at the latter's request. During the conversation particular attention was devoted to matters relating to the shaping of foreign policy by the young independent state. In this regard, it was noted that Kazakhstan seeks to develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all countries, and above all with China, its immediate neighbor. All the prequisites for this exist: economic cooperation is increasingly vigorous, trade and scientific and technical links are reliable and durable, and contacts between the residents of the two countries have become easier. A mutual desire was also expressed to establish cooperation between the legislative bodies of Kazakhstan and China.

Energy Cooperation Memorandum Signed With U.S.

LD3108173192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 31 TASS—Kazakhstan and the United States signed a memorandum on cooperation in power-engineering today. The document was signed by Kazakh First Deputy MInister of Power-Engineering and Fuel Resources Bualt Nurzhanov and Deputy Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development Energy Department James Biver [name as received].

The memorandum covers many areas of activity, specifically privatisation of the power-generating industry in Kazakhstan and U.S. assistance to the Republic in drafting a host of laws in this field.

Nazarbayev Meets With Press in Alma-Ata

LD3108171792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1339 GMT 31 AUG 92

[Report by station correspondent Viktor Glukhovtsev from Alma-Ata; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] There is a roundtable sitting in Alma-Ata of a group of editors in chief of leading independent publications today, in which Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev is taking part. Our correspondent Viktor Glukhovtsev reports in detail about that meeting, on its aims and tasks. Hello Viktor Ivanovich.

[Glukhovtsev] Good evening. I will say that the sitting has already finished and I will name the participants in the roundtable with the president of Kazakhstan right away: Golembiovskiy, editor in chief of IZVESTIYA; Fronin of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA; Potapov of TRUD; Udaltsov of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA; Loshak, first deputy editor in chief of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, and three of our own men from Kazakhstan—Shalakhmetov, chairman of the television and radio company, and Martozayev and Shrydnykh, editors in chief of republican newspapers.

As you can see, the team had very illustrious members, and a large number of questions of the most varied nature were put to President Nazarbayev, on the whole, of course, on our common pain, on the thousands of problems that arose all of a sudden with the disintegration of the Union, the opposition to the president, his assessment of the events—both political and economic—about whether he sees any ways out of the most serious crisis. By the way, Nursultan Abishevich replied in a very worthy and honest manner to all the questions

put to him, and, to all appearances, the participants in the roundtable were very pleased with that two-hour conversation.

Now over to what in my opinion are the most important things the president spoke of: first, of course, the role of the mass media, its help in carrying out the reforms, and of the attempts to unite the disintegrating state structures which are making life immeasurably hard for ordinary people in more than one country of the Commonwealth.

The collapse of the empire, Nursultan Abishevich stressed, is an objective and natural process, and perhaps there is no point in lamenting that. What lies behind that disintegration is another matter, when, let us say, declarations of economic independence have begun to be made alongside declarations of political independence. It is well known what that led to—a chaotic state in production and the rupture of ties formed over the decades. But now it seems the time of reason is nigh. It may be hoped that the process of integration will become a reality in the countries of the Commonwealth.

The president of Kazakhstan made the following proposals toward finding a way out of the situation: To set up a coordinating council of the Commonwealth; to conclude a banking alliance; to create an economic court with major powers; an assembly of people's deputies for working out common decisions; and of course to have a genuine defense alliance. Nursultan Abishevich hopes that these proposals will be studied and examined attentively by the presidents of the Commonwealth countries, namely that they may mark the beginning of the consolidation of the CIS.

Well, Nikolay Ivanovich, what I have spoken of here is just one fragment of that substantial conversation. There was detailed talk of the role of Kazakhstan in the world community, of its international contacts, of Kazakhstan's agriculture, of how it will develop, our president's stance on issues of private property, privatization, his irreconcilable attitude to inter-ethnic conflicts, and, of course, of the people of our multi-ethnic Kazakhstan. Very importantly, President Nazarbayev stated very unequivocally that priority is given in the republic's interethnic policy to the individual first, and then to his nationality, and he, as president, will stand firmly on that.

It is not possible to speak about everything that happened at the meeting—Panorama obviously does not have enough time at its disposal—but the entire roundtable conversation was filmed by an Ostankino television company crew, and one supposes that it will be shown on the first program, watched by millions of people.

I think that everybody who wants to hear the words of a wise and sober-minded politician should watch that program closely.

Well that is all I wanted to say.

Announces New Political Initiatives

OW3108194192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev informed the mass media heads participating in the Round Table in Alma-Ata Monday [31 August] that he is going to come up with five political initiatives on behalf of the Kazakh government at the meeting of the heads of states in Bishkek.

In particular, the Kazakh president proposes, 1. to set up a Coalition Council for Economic Cooperation among the CIS countries. In the opinion of President Nazarbayev, the participants of the Council should maintain "rigid contacts" and bear "full responsibility" as this Council's members; 2. to set up a banking union. The president envisages three variants for the circulation of the countries' bank-notes: (a) the CIS countries remain in the same ruble zone, or (2) introduce a new common currency unit (patterned after the West European ECU [Economic Community Unit]), or (3) start circulating their own currencies. President Nazarbayev notes that the introduction of many national currencies "may produce a confusion" since each republic will be taking measures to protect its own legal tender. In the president's opinion, the optimum variant would be to resort to a "super-national currency"; 3. to set up an economic court of arbitration; 4. to increase the role of the inter-parliamentary assembly and attract new members into it. President Nazarbayev maintains that the participants of the parliamentary assembly ought to work out a "general law adoption policy in order that national laws would not run counter to the legislation of the other CIS countries"; 5. to set up a defense union. The president emphasized that it would be the most expedient and "inexpensive" decision in the framework of the Commonwealth.

During the Round Table, President Nazarbayev also touched on the subject of the economic disintegration. 85% of the production decline has resulted from the rupture of economic ties among the CIS countries and the former COMECON [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] countries, the president averred. "The economies of our republics will never be recovered" without the integration and reinstatement of the severed ties, he stressed. In this regard, the president said that the heads of the Baltic states have already addressed the Kazakh Government with a proposal to "conclude a wide-scale economic agreement with Kazakhstan".

Nazarbayev also told the participants of the Round Table that this fall he will "make an announcement regarding a new approach to the economic reforms in Kazakhstan", although he abstained from specifying the novelty of his approach.

Nazarbayev Backs Goods Manufacturers' Initiative

OW3108183192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev will attend the first Kazakhstan conference of Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs which opens in Alma-Ata on September 14th. Akezhan Kazhgeldin, the Union's vice-president, who was speaking to IF [INTERFAX], said that this is proof of the new structure's significance and influence. Here he quoted Nazarbayev at the Union's inaugural conference on August 24th: "It is time for industrialists and entrepreneurs to take the driving seat in the reform program." Kazhgeldin said that the Union is setting out to merge former industries and the republic's enterprises into one goods manufacturing community. He added that the Union's membership includes not only the directors of major manufacturers, but also representatives from the non-state sector of the economy. The Union's vice-president was certain that the new organisation provides a fairly broad scope for more progress, acceleration and solidity in the economic transformations taking place today.

"We will enjoy direct contact with all the highest echelons of power, including the president, the cabinet and the Supreme Council", Kazhgeldin stated. "We will have some say in legislative matters", he added after informing us that the Union has a good team of deputies.

The vice-president said that the Union intends to establish sound investment pools to assist the development of new industries. He was talking about a billion ruble sum. Kazhgeldin is hoping for direct contact with foreign investors.

IF Note: As already announced by the PB [Presidential Bulletin], the Kazakhstan Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs is headed, on Nazarbayev's recommendation, by the first vice-president for industry in the republic, Oleg Soskovets (one-time minister for the non-ferrous metals industry in the former Soviet Ryzhkov government. Observers say that the Union is the only social-political force capable of vindicating its interests all the way to participating in the preparation of any draft legislation concerning the economic sphere. Also hilighted is the compatibility of the Union's policy plans with the idea of accelerating the republic's growth under the leadership of the president and his team of economic experts.

President Pledges Not To Lay Off Miners

OW3108183392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [29 August], President Nazarbayev forwarded a congratulatory address to the republic's miners on the occasion of their professional holiday—Miners' Day.

The president's address notes that "pending production decline can be checked by the efforts of workers involved in various branches of industry, including the republic's miners". President Nazarbayev emphasized that "in relying on the miners' strong shoulder", most of the problems Kazakhstan has come to grips with could be resolved. The president also said that "in the present adverse situation in the republic in would be unpardonable to curtail the production of coal since it could have a negative effect on the general economic situation in the republic".

President Nazarbayev assured the miners that the government will do everything possible to preserve the miners' jobs and insure their social guarantees.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Speaks on Anniversary of Independence

OW3108170792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We are proud of the fact that, in August 1991, Kyrgyzstan became one of the most loyal allies of democratic Russia, helping it destroy the totalitarian Center and thwart the attempts to create a new imperial political system," Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said in Bishkek today, on the first anniversary of the republic's independence.

"The present crisis," he continued, "is by means caused by our national independence. Our aim is to destroy the totalitarian system and the totalitarian methods of controlling society, and build a market economy with adequate social security mechanisms, and provide guarantees of political and economic liberty for every citizen." According to Akayev, important changes have taken place in the people's mentality during the past year. He described the psychological damage done to the nation by the old system as a greater disaster than the economic crisis. He especially pointed out the loss of the people's national awareness, "when the past was forgotten, and the future seemed fairly vague." This, however, was not as much the case now as it used to be, since ever more people were coming to realize that their republic's future was in their own hands.

During the past year, Akayev said, the people of Kyrgyzstan had become aware that the republic had much stronger links - political, economic, and human - with other republics of the former USSR than it had seemed before. This explained Kyrgyzstan's efforts to develop its

relations with Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other CIS countries, and to be open itself up the rest of the world.

Akayev sees unity among all political forces in the republic as the main condition for surmounting the present economic crisis.

Addressing the First World Kurultai [Congress] of Kyrgyzstan, Akayev said, "The social experiment which was started by the October Revolution and lasted for nearly a century is over. It has produced no serious positive results, least of all as regards the social welfare of the people." "Socialism," he went on, "proved powerless economically and failed to give freedom to the people, paralyzing their ability to act independently, making them incapable of any business enterprise, and giving rise to parasitical psychology among them." At the same time, he stressed that the Soviet period should not be seen as completely negative. The Kyrgyz population increased fourfold, the Kyrgyz abandoned their nomadic way of life, many of them moving to towns. Education came to their land, a literary Kyrgyz language was developed, and a professional stratum came into being in Kyrgyzstan. "On the whole, immense changes took place in both the economic and cultural life of the Kyrgyz in the socialist period," he said.

He stressed that the truly democratic leaders who had come to power in Russia helped Kyrgyzstan achieve sovereignty. "It goes largely to the credit of the Democratic Russia movement and the government headed by President Boris Yeltsin," he said, "that the Soviet Union did not disintegrate in the way Yugoslavia did." According to Akayev, the world sees Kyrgyzstan as a young state having good prospects, a state building a market economy and a liberal democratic political system protecting human rights. He was sure the republic would get through its present cataclysms and would progress economically. In his opinion Kyrgyzstan has a good potential and conditions for it.

At the same time, Akayev admitted that the republic still had a long way to go to proper democracy, since political organizations and public movements were still in the making. If they had tribalistic attitudes which would make them conflict with one another and fight for power, they could provoke extremist outbursts among certain population strata.

"We have no right to satisfy our personal ambitions by putting in jeopardy the Kyrgyz state built at the cost of many victims and privations," he said. He thought stability in Kyrgyzstan could be seriously undermined by possible ethnic strife, which is why the Kyrgyz leadership was sparing no effort to ensure ethnic peace, which, in his view, mainly depends on relationships among the three principal ethnic groups: the Kyrgyz, the Russians, and the Uzbeks. By seeking to isolate themselves from the other groups, the Kyrgyz could provoke discontent and resistance on their part, which could by no means be allowed to happen.

Further on Akayev Comments

LD3108172692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0409 GMT 31 Aug 92

["Special interview for Mayak listeners" by Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayevich Akayev on anniversary of republic's declaration of independence—recorded]

[Text] We have taken the first step on the way to building an independent, sovereign state.

I think that we have experienced all the difficulties encountered by all our former union republics along the way. However, the most important thing—and I am glad of this—is that we have preserved our neighborly relations, our cooperation, our friendship. Otherwise, I am convinced that we simply could not have avoided a catastrophic situation in the economy today. I see the main reason why we have been able to keep the economy from hyperinflation, from catastrophic collapse, as the fact that the heads of sovereign independent states have managed to overcome these tendencies toward disbanding and have managed to preserve the necessary volume and the necessary level of our economic and cultural cooperation and political interaction. Thanks to that, today we nonetheless have not allowed a catastrophic drop in production to occur.

Another notable event will take place here in Bishkek on 25 September, that is, another regular sitting of CIS heads of states and heads of governments, at which a further great step will be taken along the path of strengthening our Commonwealth, along the path of expanding the scale of our cooperation, in the sphere of the economy and culture.

A consultative coordinating economic council will be set up which will have some kind of guarantees for putting into practice the decisions which are being taken in the CIS. I can affirm that this will act as an impetus for the further stabilization of our economies and will make it possible to improve things through common efforts. There is no other way.

Akayev Receives Turkish Envoy on Anniversary

TA0109064992 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Kyrgyzstan has marked the first anniversary of its independence. A Turkish delegation headed by State Minister Serif Ercan represented Turkey at the ceremony held in Bishkek to mark the occasion.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev received the Turkish delegation and expressed his pleasure over Turkey's participation in the celebrations to mark the occasion. Ercan also met with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev.

Moldovan Economic, Trade Cooperation Noted

LD2808165292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] Bishkek August 28 TASS—Moldovan and Kyrgyz Prime Ministers Andrey Sangeli and Tursunbek Chingyshev agreed on Friday [28 August] on mutual economic and trade cooperation. They centred on the restoration of mutual deliveries and development of trade and economic cooperation for 1993.

PRC Envoy Arrives for Opening of New Embassy

LD2708215592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] In Bishkek today, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev received the credentials of (Pang Zhangming), PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. In a conversation that followed the ceremonial opening of a Chinese embassy, the ambassador expressed condolences for the people who died in the recent earthquake, and reported the intention of the Chinese Government to provide aid to Kyrgyzstan.

First Congress of Kyrgyz Peoples of World Held

LD3008124692 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0007 GMT 30 Aug 92

[Text] Today the First Congress of the Kyrgyz People of the World was held in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyz delegates from more than 65 countries participated in the congress. This is the first gathering of the Kyrgyz people [word indistinct] on the occasion of the independence of Kyrgyzstan. The participants in the congress will hold talks, meet local people, and visit the interesting areas of the republic.

Tajikistan

Nabiyev To Sign 'Great Treachery' Accord

LD0109092492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0000 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] According to some reports, Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev is going to Moscow with his head held low to sign a number of cooperation agreements, including a military agreement. The signing of this agreement is a great treachery toward this poor nation because the agreement has been written as if there is no sovereign Tajikistan. It is an agreement of a colonial country which only awards privileges to the Russian officers and the Russian Army. The nation ought be aware of this matter.

Protestors Block Palace

OW3108162992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1538 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Several hundred refugees from the Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions of Tajikistan have sealed off the residence of President Rakhman Nabiyev in Dushanbe. They are reported to have warned they will not let a single person out of the residence until order is restored to the country or President Nabiyev steps down.

The picketers believe that only a state of emergency can restore order to the Kurgan-Tyube region. The speaker of the Tajik parliament Akbarsho Iskanderov has left for Kurgan-Tyube in order to make an on-site decision whether a state of emergency is worth imposing.

In the meantime, Tajikistan's Interior Minister Mamadez Navzhunov has admitted that the republican police force is unable to maintain a state of emergency in the Kurgan-Tyube region. At their recent meeting in Dushanbe the President of Tajikistan and the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS armed forces Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov discussed the possibility of moving CIS peace-keepers to the Kurgan-Tyube region.

Palace Stormed

OW0109110192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0950 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the knowledge of the chairman of the Tajik Democratic Party Shodmon Yusupov, the President of Tajikistan Rakhman Nabiyev has left his residence and is staying in the territory of the Russian garrison in Dushanbe.

The move was preceded by mass picketing of the presidential palace timed to the expiration of the ultimatum to Mr. Nabiyev. The picketers demanded an end to violence in Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab regions. Several hundred picketers broke into the first floor of the palace and took staff members hostage. The president was not found in his residence.

According to Mr. Yusupov, some of the picketers were still in the palace on Tuesday [1 September]. They demanded Nabiyev's resignation promising free exit from Tajikistan in return.

The presidium of parliament and the cabinet are holding a session in Dushanbe to discuss the situation.

Ministers Held Hostage

LD0109084392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0000 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] A rally was held yesterday near the government building attended by several hundred people. The participants of the meeting described as treachery to the nation and the country, the initiative by the government of Tajikistan and the presidential apparatus and demanded that they refrain from signing a military treaty with Russia. The participants of the rally said they

want to have cultural and economic relations with Russia, but not military intervention.

We ought to mention that the protestors are those youths of Dushanbe city who had warned the president several days ago that if he did not act to normalize the political situation in [word indistinct] then they would take action. Today they have come to hear the president's answers. They were holding Deputy Prime Ministers Jamshed Karimov, Tukhtaboy Ghafarov, and Habibollah Saidmuradov; and Ramazan Mirzoyev, head of affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers, and were searching for the president until late. We will inform you today of the result of their search.

One other thing that should be mentioned is that the rally has no particular leader and no organization has taken official responsibility for its leadership.

Hostage Exchange Intent Noted

LD3108183692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 31 TASS—Tajik picketers surrounded the presidential palace in Dushanbe late on Monday and unimpededly occupied the ground floor of the building. Employees of the presidential administration and the Government are kept hostage there.

Picketers intend to exchange the hostages for General Rakhim Nurullobekov, who, as they allege, is kept by local KGB on suspicion of attempting on the life of republican prosecutor General Nurullo Khuvaydullayev. [passage ommited]

No one answers telephone calls in the republican Security and Interior Ministries. TASS could not get any information on the developments in the capital from the ministries.

Government Holds Meeting

LD0109104192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Talks are taking place in Dushanbe between the members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and a group of inhabitants which yesterday seized the building housing the presidential residence and the Cabinet of Ministers, the NEGA agency reports. The composition and the orgnizational structure of the group are still not completely clear. At first, the Tajikistan Democratic Party dissociated itself from taking part in the action, stating that it had been carried out by refugees from the Kulyab and the Kurgan-Tyube Oblasts. Later it became clear that the refugees were members of opposition parties. [passage omitted]

A morning sitting of the Presidium of the parliament and the republican Cabinet of Ministers is being held in the Tajik capital in connection with the situation that has developed.

Karimov Released

LD0109123392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Text] Dzhamshed Karimov, the first deputy chairman of the Tajik Government who was taken hostage yesterday, has been released. More than 30 Tajik officials remain held hostage by those who have seized the president's residence. According to the deputy head of the Tajik diplomatic mission in Moscow, Karimov went back into the residence after his release with Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet, and entered into talks with those who had seized the hostages.

Protesters Harden Position

NC0109100992 Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By Mina Rad]

[Text] Dushanbe, Sep 1 (AFP)—Armed protesters who broke into the presidential palace here and took 40 staff hostage hardened their position Tuesday demanding the resignation of President Rakhman Nabiyev and his replacement by a government council made up of opposition members.

The atmosphere in the city centre remained tense early Tuesday [1 September] as 200-300 youths armed with assault rifles and hand guns guarded Shakhidon Square in front of the residence, setting up checkpoints and commandeering government vehicles.

Some 1,000 protesters calling themselves the Dushanbe Youth Movement assembled on Shakhidon Square in front of the palace Monday.

About 100 of them charged the residence at around 6:00 P.M. (1300 GMT) following the president's refusal to meet with representatives of the group.

The president escaped the palace and fled to CIS barracks in the centre of the capital, several sources told AFP here.

The protesters Monday seized two of Nabiyev's advisers, Kalbada Sharif [name as received] and Ramzan Mirzayev, and Jamshid Karimov, an adviser to the prime minister.

Conflicting reports circulated Tuesday as to the whereabouts of the men and some 40 other palace staff and government officers who were prevented Monday from leaving the building.

Representatives for the demonstrators announced the hostages had been released, while a spokesman for the opposition Islamic Renaissance Party said they were still being held.

The Dushanbe Youth Movement told AFP Tuesday it demanded the resignation of Nabiyev and the creation of a "governmental council" made up of opposition deputies to preside until parliamentary elections, scheduled for December 13.

Most of the city's shops remained closed Tuesday and schools which would normally be full of children returning from their summer vacation remained empty.

The Commonwealth of Independent States barracks where Nabiyev is reportedly being protected by Russian troops were used as a refuge by the former communist potentate during pro-democracy demonstrations in May.

Following the May protests, Nabiyev was forced to replace the communist cabinet with a coalition government.

The Dushanbe Youth Movement Friday issued a three-day ultimatum to the president demanding an end to bitter fighting between pro-communists and opposition forces in Tajikistan or his resignation.

According to opposition members, pro-communists from Kulyab in southern Tajikistan attacked the pro-democracy and Islamic stronghold of Kurgan-Tyube last Thursday.

The clash killed 180 people, they said.

The Tajikistan government Saturday declared a state of emergency in Kurgan-Tyube and surrounding villages.

Nabiyev made arrangements Friday with CIS commander-in-chief Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov for the deployment of a CIS intervention force.

The president described the "peace keepers" as the "last chance" to restore peace in the southern region.

Opposition member Makhmad Dust [name as received], one of the leaders of the National Front for the Salvation of the Fatherland, said the CIS army would try "above all to suppress the opposition."

Arms Smuggling for Regional Conflicts Noted

PM0109114192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 92 p 1

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "Border Violators Not Giving Themselves Up Without a Fight.... In July Alone, 16 Clashes with Armed Groups Were Recorded on the Tajik-Afghan Border"]

[Text] The border violators do not, as a rule, disguise their aims. They will openly state that they have crossed over to get weapons. The violators' actual appearance leaves you in no doubt—they return from Afghanistan armed to the teeth and often put up desperate resistance to the border guards. The brief clashes result in losses on both sides.

This is the situation in which the troops of the Pyandzh and Moskovskiy Border Detachments stationed in Tajikistan continue to perform their duty. The social and everyday problems connected with the overall situation in the region have to be added on top.

True, Russian Federation Presidential Decree No. 921, dated 24 August 1992, which places border detachments under Russian jurisdiction, has helped resolve many of the problems, including the most acute. We asked Colonel Aleksandr Suvorov, chief of the Russian Border Troops press service, to comment on this event.

First, he stressed, the decree has helped remove tension among the troops themselves. It is no secret that previously there were no legislative acts providing legal, material-technical, or financial protection to border troops serving in Tajikistan. That situation produced serious problems, particularly in recent time.

Now, since the signing of the relevant protocol between the governments of Tajikistan and Russia and the Russian presidential decree, the situation has been improving. Work on preparing yet another agreement—"On the Status of Border Troops on the Territory of Tajikistan"—is continuing. It will undoubtedly help resolve many of the remaining problems.

However, the Tajik-Afghan border remains uneasy. On 26 August we again received a report of the detention of a large group of armed men coming from Afghanistan in one of the Pyandzh Border Detachment's sectors. This time they surrendered without a fight. Another 35 violators, including five Afghans, had been arrested the day before.

At the headquarters of the operations group for Tajikistan (the Central Asia Border District) it was noted with alarm that it is not just inhabitants of that republic that are now going to Afghanistan for weapons. An increased interest is also being shown in arms, narcotics, and other contraband by the inhabitants of Uzbekistan and other Commonwealth countries. It is becoming increasingly clear that the border troops, despite being thousands of kilometers away from the areas of many of the regional conflicts, do nevertheless, experience them on their own account, as it were. Who can tell how many ordinary people's lives have been saved right here, on this troubled border.

Armenia

President Describes Defense Plans for Border

OW3108185892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian President [Prime Minister] Gagik Arutyunyan has described as "one of the chief tasks" of his Cabinet building up the country's defences, in particular, those in areas bordering on Azerbaijan. Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan on Monday [31 August] the Armenian president said that the government was about to start forming rear infrastructures, without which effective military operations would be impossible.

Arutyunyan believes that "far from everybody in Armenia is aware that the republic has been dragged into a war and is in the state of war". The Armenian Prime Minister said that the war was imposed on Armenia by Azerbaijan, which is the "driving force of the confrontation". Prime Minister Arutyunyan said that Armenia's actions were purely defensive.

Interviewed by INTERFAX later in the day the Armenian Premier was skeptical about last week's cease-fire agreement in the area of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, concluded in Alma-Ata. Arutyunyan said that before taking office as prime minister he had participated in drafting several such agreements, however, "none of them was destined to last".

Nagorno-Karabakh To Observe CSCE Cease-Fire

NC3108163992 Yerevan SNARK in English 1240 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Stepanakert, August 29 (SNARK)—Manvel Sarkissian, the permanent representative of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh [NKR] to Armenia, has announced today to the SNARK reporter that Georgiy Petrosyan, as the head of the Karabakh parliament, had sent the message to Mario Rafaelli, the chairman of the Minsk conference, to express the agreement of Nagorno-Karabakh to the appeal of the Minsk group of CSCE on ceasing the military actions in the zone of the Karabakh conflict for 60 days. The Karabakh Government is ready to order the forces of self-defence not to be the first in the offensive and to take part in the system of warning on violation of the military actions ceasing.

Further on Reaction to Kazakh Mediation Offer

PM3108143392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Bablumyan report under the general heading "Nazarbayev Initiative Crowned with Success. Accord Reached on Cease-Fire in Karabakh"]

[Excerpts] Yerevan—The negotiations which have finished in Alma-Ata took place against the backdrop of fierce shelling of Stepanakert and other population centers in Nagorno-Karabakh, IZVESTIYA correspondent Sergey Bablumyan reports. Local observers consider that the unprecedentedly brutal punitive action aims to crush the population's morale and to present the world community with the accomplished fact of people being forced to leave their place of permanent residence. [passage omitted]

As the president's press service stated to IZVESTIYA, the Armenian leadership positively assesses Kazakhstan's mediation mission and supports any steps aimed at stopping the bloodshed. The Armenian leadership did, however, express its bewilderment at the Radio Baku report that the Azerbaijan military department may not in its actions take into consideration the opinion and diplomatic steps of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In supporting the Kazakh president's peace mission and the documents signed in Alma-Ata, the Armenian leadership expects Azerbaijan to take steps of its own and to show good will.

In the meantime the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic press center released a statement which says that any infringements of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's airspace without its leadership's agreement will in future be terminated in a decisive manner.

Azerbaijani 'Large-Scale Attacks' Reported

NC3108165992 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] The situation is extremely tense in Krasnoselskiy Rayon. Yesterday the enemy used a large military force and took defense positions near the village of Vahan under its control. Armenian forces have regrouped and are taking counter measures to stop the enemy's large-scale attacks and recover the lost positions. Sambat Ayvazyan, military commandant of Krasnoselskiy Rayon, reported that seven people were killed and 15 injured. The Armenian Defense Ministry reported that the enemy is continuing to fire on the village of Vahan.

Aleksanyan, the chairman of Gorisskiy Rayon Soviet Executive Committee, reported that defense positions near Shrnukh and Khndzoresk were shelled last night. The shelling lasted for a brief period thanks to the precise and effective military actions by the Armenian detachments. A relative calm was prevailing in the region as of 1030 today.

The enemy is also trying to create tension in Vardenisskiy Rayon. Although the enemy is not resorting to large-scale operations, artillery shelling and automatic weapons fire continue day and night [words indistinct].

Supreme Soviet Presidium Appeals to Abkhazia

NC3108184392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 31 Aug 92

["Text" of appeal issued by the Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium on the situation in Abkhazia; date not given]

[Text] The Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium expresses deep concern over the outbreak of armed clashes and the broadening of strong-arm methods against the peaceful people in Abkhazia. Experience shows that recourse to armed confrontation for the purpose of solving political problems is unacceptable. This situation will cause bloodshed and the deportation of peaceful people.

The reports on the strong-arm treatment of the Armenian population in Abkhazia has caused significant uneasiness and emotional stress to the people in Armenia. This situation will cause the already complicated situation in interethnic relations in the Transcaucasus region to deteriorate even further. In addition, it will threaten the perspectives of peaceful coexistence.

While conveying its condolences to the families and relatives of those who have been killed, the Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium hopes that the opposing sides will stop using armed force and find a peaceful solution to the problem.

Prime Minister: Lack of Order Causes Crisis

OW3108193992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian Prime Minister has said that he blames the current critical situation in the Armenian economy not so much on the economic blockade by Azerbaijan, as on the lack of order inside the republic. Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan told a news conference in Yerevan that he was referring to the discipline of executives and responsibility at all levels of management.

Prime Minister said that at the end of the first six months of the year the budget deficit totalled about 700 million rubles and industrial production was down 48%. Most enterprises have big financial problems and about 20% of them are insolvent.

Arutyunyan said that within the framework of preparing the republic for the winter two Armenian officials, State Minister Vigen Chitechyan and National Bank Board President Isak Isaikian were currently having negotiations in Moscow with Russia on a "technical" credit of 5 billion rubles for Armenia. The money would be used to buy electricity from Turkey in exchange for Russian gas.

No Plans for Introducing National Currency

OW3108150492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia has no plans to introduce its national currency at the moment, Chief of the Armenian Finance Ministry's Currency Department Meruzhan Mikaelyan told IF [INTERFAX]. "The introduction of a national currency will have a meaning only when Russia herself renounces the rouble," he said. He also noted that "Armenia will not withdraw from the rouble zone because her economy is in a catastrophic state".

Mikaelyan said, however, that ways of introducing national currency are being discussed "rather seriously". There are plans to issue banknotes worth 1, 3, 5, 10,25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 drams, and coins worth 1, 3 and 10 drams, and 10, 20 and 50 lums.

Ter-Petrosyan Sends Message to Arab League

LD0109054492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2315 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspodent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 1 September—On 31 August, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan sent a message to 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the League of Arab States. This was revealed to the ITAR-TASS correspondent at the press service of the republic's president.

L. Ter-Petrosyan assured the head of the League of Arab States that, in spite of the further expansion and stepping up of military actions, the leadership of Armenia continues to favor a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh problem. Any intermediary step on the part of the League will receive complete support from Yerevan, the president assured him.

In the opinion of L. Ter-Petrosyan, "There are no historical or psychological barriers" preventing close political and economic relations between Armenia and the Arab countries and peoples. On the contrary, he noted the life and flourishing of the Armenian communities in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and a number of other Arab countries as a vivid example of Armenian-Arab coexistence.

Cooperation With Turkey Must Be Specific

OW3108182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Last week's Armenian-Turkish consultations in Yerevan "may influence the Turkish diplomats' attitude

to us", the Armenian president's political adviser Zhirayr Liparityan told IF [INTERFAX].

Commenting on the recent talks with a delegation of the Turkish Foreign Ministry he said that Armenia would like to make Armenian-Turkish cooperation more specific, namely to open a bridge in the Marklara customs point, intensify railway communication and begin electric-energy exchanges. These steps, said Liparityan, will promote our mutual understanding. We would be glad if such talks resulted in "clear-cut documents" respected by both countries.

Armenia would like to know what Turkey's attitude to it is in the military and psychological aspect, said Zhirayr Liparityan. The Turkish diplomats have confirmed, he said, that their country neither lays any claims on Armenia, nor views it as an enemy. So there are no obstacles that might foil the establishment and development of bilateral relations.

Liparitayn attaches great importance to the fact that like Armenia Turkey believes that the problem of armistice in Karabakh should be considered separately from the status of this territory. Turkey insists, he said, that Armenia and Azerbaijan recognize each other's independence and territorial integrity. But we cannot recognize the territorial integrity of a state which uses this principle for banishing and exterminating people who live on their native land, or indulges in provocations on our borders, said Zhirayr Liparityan.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Updates Karabakh Operations

NC3108200992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

Azerbaijani Armed Forces units in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayon maintained their combat operations yesterday and this morning. Mekhmana has been completely cleard of the Armenian occupationists. An enemy tank was captured and two tanks, three infantry combat vehicles, and two trucks were destroyed in the clashes. The Armenian military barracks located between Norashen and [name indistinct] was destroyed. Meanwhile, our fighters have been reinforcing their positions in Drmbon. Clashes are taking place around (Koshagod).

An enemy tank was destroyed and two tanks, a Zenith launcher, two automatic missile launchers, two heavy-caliber machine guns, and two vehicles were captured by our units in the clashes on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border in Kedabekskiy Rayon yesterday. A large number of enemy personnel were also killed. Three of our fighters were martyred and 10 others were wounded in the clashes.

The border towns in Zangelanskiy and Tauzskiy Rayons, which are close to the Armenian border, were fired on last night. The situation in Kazakhskiy, Akstafa, Kel'badzharsakiy, Kubatlinskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons and in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has been peaceful.

Attacks Continue Despite Cease-Fire

LD0109064792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0637 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By unidentified AZERINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Baku September 1 TASS—A massive shelling of Azerbaijani populated areas from the direction of Armenia did not cease at night. An AZERINFORM correspondent received these data from the republic's border areas. Bombardment continued despite a document signed by the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan) on a two-month moratorium on military operations from September 1.

Almost all border villages, to most of which women, children and old men returned on Monday, were shelled by artillery and grad rocket installations. Casualty figures are being specified, a spokesman at the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defence told AZERINFORM.

Car Accident Called 'Attempt' on Elchibey's Life

LD3108182992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1810 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondents Khalil Imanov and Sabir Mirzoyev for TASS]

[Text] Baku August 31 TASS—"The version that a KamAZ truck rammed into cars escorting the Azeri president by accident is wrong," Niyazi Ibragimov, head of the presidential apparatus's press service, told AZERINFORM. He emphasised this was nothing short of an attempt on the life of Abulfaz Elchibey.

Ibragimov was in the presidential cortege and witnessed everything that had happened. Road traffic police stopped five to six KamAZ trucks on the side of the Baku-Novorosiisk highway, not far from the district centre of Geranboy, to clear the road for the cortege.

However, when the police car that was running ahead of the cortege approached them, one of the KamAZes sped sharply ahead diagonally and hit the police car. The car carrying the president's personal guard surged ahead and by hitting the KamAZ truck on its side pushed it off the road thus clearing the way for the car in which president rode. The KamAZ driver who tried to flee was detained.

Kazakh Envoys Arrive on Peace Mission

NC3108190192 Baku TURAN in English 1049 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 31 August (TURAN)—Personal representatives of the president of Kazakhstan have started their activities in Baku and Yerevan in accordance with the memorandum signed by the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Yerevan in Alma-Ata.

"Our task is to create such conditions to further peacemaking process that would ease accommodation of the sides. Beginning from the simple matters to most difficult and complicated questions. We see it necessary that the process should be carried out within the bounds of CSCE, UN and Tehran peace talks, held in May of this year", said to the TURAN correspondent the personal representative of the Kazakhstan's president to Baku, head of the international department under the presidential board and cabinet of ministers Gant Kasimov. Kasimov thinks the sides have found the points of contact in Alma-Ata and now this process needs consolidation, that is, to lower the level of military confrontation and create ground for a summit of the three presidents.

Kazakhstan's diplomat did not rule out the possibility of breaking the Alma-Ata agreements, but still G. Kasimov said that he and his colleague to Yerevan Asan Kazhakov would consider their mission fulfilled if manage to maintain a dialogue between Yerevan and Azerbaijan.

President Accepts EBRD Membership Rules

OW3108182492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey has signed a decree according to which Azerbaijan accepts the terms of the EBRD's [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] Board of Directors and recognizes the rules of membership of this organization. The decree envisages corresponding adjustments in Azerbaijan's laws. From now onwards Azerbaijan will inform the EBRD of the steps it will make in this area.

Elchibey's other decree instructs the Cabinet of Ministers to restructure the State Committee for Labour, the State Land Committee, the State Anti-Monopoly Committee and the State Committee for Foreign Investments to avoid duplication of functions.

Georgia

Shevardnadze To Run for Parliament Speaker

LD3108124892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 31 TASS—"Georgians cannot help being original. Therefore, I was compelled to agree to the amendment of the rules governing parliamentary elections," chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze told the local radio today. He announced his decision to withdraw from the "Mir" (peace) election bloc and to run directly for the post of speaker of the Georgian parliament. The elections are scheduled for October 11. This became possible after the State Council adopted a universally unprecedented decision two days ago to elect the speaker by direct, universal and secret ballot and according to the majority system. Shevardnadze did not take part in the discussion of this problem.

Further Reportage on Events in Abkhazia

Shevardnadze Urges Russian Role

LD3108135492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has advocated Russian participation in the process of achieving a peaceful settlement in the Caucasus. The Georgian leader believes that the present crisis in the Caucasus can be quickly resolved with Russia's assistance. He also announced his determination to use diplomatic methods to put an end to disturbances in various parts of the country. He said he intended to strengthen Georgia's ties with its neighbors.

Abkhazia Accuses Georgia of 'Genocide'

OW3108150292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The members of the Abkhazian parliament who have arrived in Gudauta have urged the world public to send in a fact-finding mission to study instances of massive violations of human rights by Georgian servicemen.

The Abkhazian MPs [members of parliament] have qualified the Georgians' conduct as genocide against the Abkhazian and Armenian population of Abkhazia. They also believe that Tbilisi would like to build a mono-ethnic Georgia.

Citizens of Russia, Ukraine and other CIS states are reportedly fighting on the side of Abkhazia. According to some sources, there are defenders of the government building during the putsch in Moscow in August 1991 among those who are fighting on the side of Abkhazians.

Abashidze Proposes Batumi for Talks

LD3108142792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1216 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] Now for the talk, the promised talk on the situation in Abkhazia. The situation remains tense there and this, of course, is worrying neighboring Adhzaria,

too. Correspondent Vladimir Mezentsev is on the telephone from Batumi. We're listening to you.

[Mezentsev] Aslan Abashidze, Adzharia's Supreme Soviet chairman, has put forward a proposal for holding talks between the conflicting sides in Batumi. As is known, this region remains the only place in the Caucasus which has not become embroiled in the fratricidal conflict.

The leaders of the North Caucasus autonomous formations which are part of the Russian Federation may also be invited to the negotiations table. The government of Adzharia guarantees the complete safety of the participants in the meeting. Moreover, for the duration of the talks Abashidze is prepared to send his family to Abkhazia as guarantor of the immunity of Vladislav Ardzinba.

Shevardnadze Criticizes 'Mercenaries'

LD3108153692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] In spite of the Sochi accords clashes between Georgian and Abkhaz armed formations continued today in Abkhazia. Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, addressed the people on the radio today. He linked the exacerbation of the situation in Abkhazia with the presence of mercenaries coming in from the Northern Caucasus. According to Shevardnadze, the supremacy of the Georgian side is more than obvious. However, no advance is being made on Gudauta, which is where the Abkhaz leadership of the autonomous formation, including Vladislav Ardzinba, are currently located, to avoid huge losses on the Abkhaz side.

Emergency Committee Chief's Briefing

LD3108160392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 31 Aug 92

["Novosti" newscast video report by Sochi correspondent A. Melkonyan on news conference given by Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee on Emergencies, on 31 August]

[Text] [Melkonyan] It is known that the main task of yesterday's meeting was to begin to organize talks in Moscow on 3 September, Sergey Shoygu stressed. From the very start of the conflict, Russia sought to prevent the bloodshed, and this position was expressed in two statements made by President Yeltsin. Neither of the sides could control the development of events, tragic at times.

To date, not all points of the protocol signed in Sochi are being implemented. Combat operations and movements of uncontrolled military formations are still taking place.

The Russian delegation led by Sergey Shoygu left today for Armavir to meet representatives of the peoples of Northern Caucasus.

[Shoygu] We hope that the peoples of the Northern Caucasus will show a normal and friendly attitude, which we are already witnessing today, with regard to providing humanitarian aid. We hope that this will continue and more humanitarian aid will be provided. And of course, we would like to see that individual armed people do not get through to the conflict territory, to the conflict zone. The more of them are there, the more difficult it will be to settle the situation.

[Melkonyan] Meanwhile, more refugees are arriving in Sochi from the zone of hostilities. They are over 40,000 of them at present.

Russian Troops To Return Fire

LD3108162292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1559 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Aug—"Up to now we have adhered to the principle of noninterference in Georgia's internal affairs, including in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict," ITAR-TASS was told today by Colonel General Viktor Dubynin, chief of staff of the Russian Armed Forces. "And we will continue to adhere to it, as long as the armed confrontation in the region does not start jeopardizing the lives of Russian citizens and the security and stability of Russia's borders." If that does happen, he stressed, then a stop will be put immediately to any actions inflicting harm on Russian people, or on property of the state, or of the armed forces. He said in conclusion that if the Georgian or Abkhazian sides open fire on civilians or on Russian troops, the order will be given to suppress the sources of such fire.

Health Ministry Claims 127 Killed

OW3108185192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Abkhaz Health Ministry, by August 31 127 people have been killed and 380 wounded in the conflict with Georgia on both sides. This report was provided at a press conference Monday [31 August] by members of the Georgian faction "Democratic Abkhazia" of the Abkhaz parliament.

Deputy Nugzar Mgaloblishvili called the chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Council "a dwarfish dictator". In his words, Ardzinba "is creating a totalitarian regime by taking control of the republican legislative, executive and court powers".

Mgaloblishvili noted that the ruling bodies of the autonomous are 60% made up of Abkhaz peoples. And in the staff of the Supreme Council this figure reaches 80%. "The main criteria in selecting personnel for the state structures are family or clan interests", he noted. The

deputy believes that the Abkhaz parliament "which allowed bloodshed in the republic should resign along with its chairman".

'Another Massive Attack' on Gudauta

OW3108184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press-service of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia in Gudauta says troops subordinate to the State Council of Georgia launched another massive attack on Gudauta from Sukhumi and Gagra with the use of armored vehicles and artillery at about 17:00 Moscow time on Monday [31 August].

On the same day the chairman of Abkhazia's Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba had a telephone conversation with the Georgian troop commander in Abkhazia Georgy Karkarashvili to protest the violation of the cease-fire agreement by the Georgian side. The cease-fire agreement expected to come into effect as of August 31, was concluded by the head of the Abkhazian parliament Ardzinba and the Georgian Defence minister Tengiz Kitovani with the mediation of the chairman of the Russian Federation's committee for emergencies Sergey Shoygu in Sochi on Saturday [29 August].

The press service of the Abkhazian parliament has said Karkarashvili said in response that he "is not going to comply" with the agreement and must seize the flour mill and the oil tank farm on Monday.

Situation Updated

OW0109105192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0951 GMT 1 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Conflicting reports are coming from the area of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. According to the Georgian Interior Ministry, on Monday [31 August] evening Georgian government troops occupied a mill and oil storage facility in Eshery outside of Sukhumi. The night in the city was relatively peaceful.

Meanwhile, the press center of the Abkhaz parliament reports from Gudauta that on Tuesday morning Abkhaz units continued to repel the attacks of Georgian troops on the storage facility and mill. Georgians reportedly lost over 90 men, dead and wounded, and 6 armored vehicles. One tank was captured by the Abkhaz who lost 7 persons.

According to reports from Gagry, on Monday night Georgian troops approached Pitsunda.

30,000 Volunteers Registered To Fight

LD2908163492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1256 GMT 29 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 29 Aug—At least 30,000 reservists and volunteers in Georgia had by today registered so that, if necessary, they could be sent to Abkhazia or to defend the republic's borders. But the process is starting to take on an uncontrollable nature, and, as stated today at a sitting of the republic's State Council by its chairman, Eduard Shevardnadze, some volunteers are setting off for Abkhazia of their own accord, bearing weapons.

The State Council chairman expressed anxiety in this connection. The process must be halted, he declared. Otherwise such spontaneous detachments may subsequently create serious problems for Georgia. Eduard Shevardnadze also thinks that it is expedient to tighten up the selection of reservists and volunteers, taking account of their military skills and experience.

Armenian Deputies in Sukhumi

LD3008145192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 30 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 30 Aug—A group of Armenian parliamentarians led by Seyran Bagdasaryan, member of the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium, has spoken in favor of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. The delegation arrived today in Sukhumi, capital of Abkhazia. A meeting has taken place between the deputies and Tamaz Nadareyshvili, first deputy chairman of Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, and members of the Georgian parliamentary faction "Democratic Abkhazia".

The "Democratic Abkhazia" faction noted that though some of the Armenians have temporarily left Abkhazia because of the military actions there, "there can be no question of the deportation of the Armenian population."

After this meeting the deputies of the Armenian Supreme Soviet left for Guliyripshskiy and Ochamchirskiy Rayons of Abkhazia to meet with representatives of the Armenian community. It is expected that they will go to Gudauta tomorrow, where a meeting has been planned with Abkhaz leaders who are there.

Arms Transferred to Georgian Army

PM3108123992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Aug 92 p 1

[Interview with Russian Supreme Soviet Member Gennadiy Sayenko by Vladimir Ryashin; place and date not given: "Russian Arms for Georgian State Council"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Our correspondent Vladimir Ryashin conversed with Gennadiy Sayenko, a member of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet delegation which visited the zone of combat actions in Abkhazia.

[Ryashin] Gennadiy Vasilyevich, how true are the reports that Russian arms have been handed over to the Georgian State Council Army which is engaged in a punitive expedition in Abkhazia?

[Sayenko] While in Tbilisi we met Patrikeyev, former commander of the Transcaucasus Military District which is henceforth also former—it has been disbanded and a Russian Group of Forces has just been created on its basis. Thus, the colonel general admitted: Yes, arms have been handed over, not just firearms but also heavy weapons.

[Ryashin] What figures were cited by the man whose second job, in an expression of black humor, was described as being Minister of Armed Georgia [ministr vooruzhennoy Gruzii]?

[Sayenko] This is no joking matter. The Georgian Army has received 50 tanks, 100 units of other armored equipment, an artillery battery, and helicopters. It is hard to tell whether this list is complete. While in Sukhumi we saw Georgian guardsmen on T-72 tanks. Who can tell whether they were handed over or captured. We were told of how Russian military bases are stormed at times. They gather a mob, let it march ahead, and Georgian guardsmen armed with assault rifles follow behind.

Gamsakhurdia Denounces Shevardnadze 'Junta'

LD0109112892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 1 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 1 TASS—A statement by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who is now in Grozny, has been made available to the ITAR-TASS news agency in an unusual way—via Helsinki and Paris. He faxed a handwritten statement to his representative in Finland. The statement was then relayed in the same way to Paris to the chairman of the foreign affairs commission of the Georgian parliament.

The statement reads as follows:

"Mass media lately circulate false reports that fully distort my attitude to developments in Abkhazia. The reports assert in particular that I am allegedly at the head of a guerrilla warfare in western Georgia and that I am in charge of the dispatch of volunteers to Abkhazia.

"Such 'information' is circulated ostensibly on the strength of statements and other documents allegedly signed by me. I consider it necessary to recall that while working at the post of the parliament chief and then the president of Georgia, I in every way promoted a peaceful, political course of a settlement of the conflict provoked in Abkhazia by the central authority. My efforts were producing positive results.

"I view what is happening in Abkhazia now as unlawful actions by the unlawful Georgian 'government' that aims to intimidate and terrorise the entire population of Georgia in the face of the forthcoming 'democratic' elections announced by the Shevardnadze junta.

"The Confederation of the Highland Peoples makes a decision and acts according to its decisions. I have nothing to do with that, although I regard as sacred the struggle of the peoples of Georgia and Abkhazia, just as that of all the peoples inhabiting the Caucasus, against neocommunism.

"I state once again that the violence and terror being practised by the junta headed by Shevardnadze should be immediately stopped. And I categorically protest against attempts to discredit my name," Zviad Gamsakhurdia stated.

Armed Gamsakhurdia Supporters Near Kvareli

OW3108185592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua has said that an armed detachment of 100 supporters of ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has been spotted in the woods 25 kilometers away from the city of Kvareli in Eastern Georgia.

Sigua said the national guards have blocked the detachment. Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani has arrived in the area to guide the operation. Tengiz Sigua said if Gamsakhurdia's supporters offered resistance, "all means will be used to wipe out that gang of terrorists".

Sigua: 'Major Operation' Against Gamsakhurdia

LD3108215292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 31 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze today held an emergency session of the State Council in Tbilisi and called for everything possible to be done toward a cease-fire in Abkhazia by 3 September. At the same time, Eduard Shevardnadze noted that an end to military operations should be linked to the withdrawal of mercenaries from Abkhazia.

The State Council chairman stated that gangs of mercenaries continue to attack government troop positions in Gagra, Bzybskoye Ushchelye, and Sukhumi. This was what instigated today's offensive by the Georgian guard for the purpose of seizing the suburbs of Gudauta, milling combine, and petroleum depot.

According to reports from the press center of the Georgian State Council, Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua has announced a planned major operation to liquidate the numerous gangs of Zviadists who are still operating in Kakhetia.

'Militants' Try To Thwart Peace in S. Ossetia

LD3108082992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0755 GMT 31 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 31 TASS—No shooting or local skirmishes were recorded in South Ossetia last night. Both the Georgian and Ossetian sides are strictly adhering to the armistice agreement reached in Dagomys by representatives of Russia, Georgia, North and South Ossetia, ITAR-TASS was told at the headquarters of the mixed armed forces joint command, discharging its peace-keeping mission in the 15-kilometre zone of the disengagement corridor and throughout the region.

However, according to communiques issued by the North Ossetian security ministry, separate groups of militants and armed bandit gangs have again become active in recent days. Exploiting the still unstable situation, they are endeavouring to thwart the peaceful settlement of the Ossetian-Georgian conflict. They have repeatedly opened fire at night on detachments of the peace-keeping force, are robbing civilians, capturing hostages and stealing food.

The command of the mixed peace-keeping force informed the personnel of the Russian, Georgian and Ossetian battalions today that the term of contract signed by soldiers and officers expires on September 6. The Georgian and Ossetian sides were offered to renew their units with trained reservists. Detachments of the 104th Pskov Paratroop Regiment, which controlled the most dangerous conflict areas in South Ossetia and have proved to be most efficient, will be withdrawn from the Tskhinvali zone. They will be replaced by motorised infantry.

According to the South Ossetian Council of Ministers, work to repair and restore the principal public utilities, housing, public buildings, commercial enterprises and other amenities are being continued in Tskhinvali. All the districts of the city are supplied with electricity, gas and water. Telephone communication has been restored. The lifting of the transport blockade on the main Vladikavkaz-Dzhava-Tskhinvali motor road allows to regularly deliver to South Ossetia building materials, fuel, food, medicines and other prime necessities.

Lessons will be resumed in schools and at the local pedagogical institute on September 1 in Tskhinvali area after a two-year interval. This is also an important sign of peaceful life.

"It is our main task to ensure an organised return of refugees to their homes, to draw them into the process of peaceful construction," South Ossetian Premier Oleg Teziyev believes.

Latvia

Agreement on Diplomatic Ties Signed with Armenia

LD2408184892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Raffi Hovannisian met in Riga this morning Indulis Berzins, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Supreme Council of Latvia. Raffi Hovannisian arrived at the Foreign Ministry of Latvia at noon, where he spoke with Foreign Minister of Latvia Janis Jurkans. An agreement was signed on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Latvia and Armenia.

At a news conference after the signing of the agreement, both ministers expressed conviction that relations between Latvia and Armenia will evolve positively in the future. Everything possible will be done for the exchange of diplomatic representatives to take place sooner.

In the afternoon Raffi Hovannisian met representatives of the Armenian community. After that he left Latvia.

Currency Introduction To Be 'Gradual Exchange'

OW0109084192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0541 GMT 01 Sep 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The resolution of Latvian Monetary Reform Committee Monday [31 August] "Re Guarantees During Transition To National Monetary Unit: Lat" envisages the introduction into circulation of new bank-notes through their gradual exchange for Latvian rubles. This provision equally applies to cash, bank assets, and deposits of other crediting agencies.

According to this resolution, all debts and financial commitments originally expressed in Latvian rubles will be transfer into the Lats at the same rate of exchange. The time and rate of exchange will be specified by a separate resolution of the Monetary Reform Committee.

The president of the Bank of Latvia, Einars Repse, said at his appearance at the Monday session of the "Satversme" parliamentary faction that the introduction of the Lat is not likely to occur before 1993.

In the opinion of Mr Repse, the monetary reform in Latvia will differ from the analogous reforms in Estonia and Germany since the public is fully aware of the amount of the Latvian rubles currently in circulation and at the bank assets.

On July 26, 1992, the assets of the Latvian banks contained 8.2 bn [billion] rubles, with 9.343 bn rubles in circulation.

In the words of the president of Bank of Latvia, the Bank's next objective would be to interdict further inflation of the Latvian ruble, insure its stability and free convertibility.

The session of the Monetary Reform Committee declined the proposal advanced by Premier Ivars Godmanis who sought to ban any payments, including wages, in hard currency, and prohibit hard currency trade in Latvia. This measure was meant to turn the Latvian ruble into Latvia's only legal tender.

Industrial Output Decreases 29.5 Percent

LD3108160192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0430 GMT 31 Aug 92

[Text] The total amount of industrial production in Latvia during the seven months of 1992 has decreased by more than a quarter—by 29.5 percent, or by 18 billion rubles—in comparison with the corresponding period of the last year. The amount of the main types of agricultural produce has decreased by 9 to 12 percent.

The real wages of those working have decreased by 28 percent. Such news about the national economy of Latvia in the first seven months of this year is given by the Latvian State Statistics Committee.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Russian Army, Energy, Economy

LD2908132192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] The Russian Army deployed in Lithuania must return to its own country, like it returned from other European countries, said Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis at a meeting with residents of the town of Snieckus on 28 August.

Snieckus is inhabited mostly by people who work at the Ignalina nuclear power station. I am sure, said Landsbergis, that Russian President Boris Yeltsin also understands that the foreign army must be withdrawn from Lithuania. Vytautas Landsbergis expressed his hope that a bilateral understanding would be reached at the meeting of Lithuanian and Russian leaders in Moscow on 8 September, when Landsbergis and Yeltsin are going to discuss and possibly sign an agreement on the final date of the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania.

Meanwhile, speaking on Lithuanian radio on 28 August, Vytautas Landsbergis said Lithuania will experience a season of hardship next winter. According to the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, the Lithuanian economy is meeting the difficulties of increasing prices for energy resources supplied by Russia and settlements with Russian suppliers and consumers.

According to Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuania should move faster in developing cooperation with Western countries, although not relying on Western help exclusively. The leader of the Lithuanian parliament stressed that the lack of interest of foreign businessmen or

investors in Lithuania was due to imperfect laws, the tax system, and the lack of a feeling of responsibility by Lithuanian businessmen.

Vytautas Landsbergis stressed the importance of work by the Lithuanian diplomatic service. According to him, money spent on establishment of embassies and the maintenance of diplomats is spent well and [words indistinct]. The speaker also said that one can often hear talk in Lithuania about unjustified expenditures on the maintenance of diplomatic services abroad. In Landsbergis' opinion, Lithuania's diplomatic representation abroad should be expanded.

Results of Russian-Lithuanian Talks Noted

LD2908172992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 29 Aug 92

[Text] Guoda Salciute at the microphone: We begin our bulletin with a report on yesterday's meeting of representatives of the Lithuanian and Russian Governments in Moscow. They discussed mutual accounts, general trading conditions, the setting up of trade missions, and trade and economic cooperation.

The Lithuanian representatives returned from Moscow late last night, therefore information about this meeting is coming late.

Lithuanian Deputy Economy Minister Vytas Navickas told [words indistinct] correspondent that at yesterday's meeting, both sides reached compromise solutions on the most important issues. Probably next Monday [31 August] the Lithuanian and Russian central banks will sign an agreement defining arrangements for settlements between Lithuanian and Russian enterprises which have been disturbed since 1 July.

The heads of the Russian Central Bank propose, as before, the same principle—to settle accounts through the correspondent account. Initial 10 billion ruble accounts will be opened in both banks to handle mutual trade.

It seems that it was essentially agreed upon in Moscow on how to solve mutual debts. The Russian Central Bank proposes that the banks of both states analyze by 18 September, the debts of their enterprises and transfer these sums to each other. The received monies are correspondingly distributed among Lithuanian and Russian enterprises. A representative of the Bank of Lithuania, who took part in the meeting, essentially approved the solution.

According to the Bank of Lithuania, on 1 August, Russian enterprises owed Lithuania 11 billion rubles, and Lithuanian enterprises to Russia—over 4 billion rubles.

During the negotiations on trade conditions and trade and economic cooperation in 1993, the following Russian stand emerged: it would like [words indistinct]. Russia thus puts forth strict conditions [word indistinct] of the re-export of goods of both states. According to Vytas Navickas, it seems that a list of goods which could be re-exported was compiled.

The Friday meeting did not solve the supply of oil and gas to Lithuania. [Words indistinct] prepare all the documents by the middle of September which should be signed by the heads of the governments of both states. Such a meeting should take place on 18 September.

Fuel Supplies Demonopolized, Imports Encouraged

OW2808211592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1937 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian government has passed a resolution on demonopolization of fuel supplies to the country and encouragement of its import by various legal and natural persons. According to this document adopted on August 27, crude oil and oil products, condensed gas, and other fuel resources will be imported to the republic tax-exempt. State-owned and organizations have been granted permission to conclude individual transactions with private fuel suppliers and conduct accounting with them in any agreeable form. In the meantime, the resolution notes that sales of privately purchased fuel cannot be effected for the prices higher than those set by the state.

Russia Reduces Supply of Gas by 55 Percent

LD2808222692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 28 Aug 92

[Text] We have just received a report from Tadas Vienozinskis, the government press representative. The state enterprise Lithuanian Gas received a telegram today, signed by the Lentransgaz Director Solovyev, and saying that from 29 August—that is, tomorrow—the supply of gas to Lithuania will be limited by 55 percent.

It is stated in the report by the government press service that, in spite of repeated efforts by the Lithuanian Government to reach an agreement on the supply of gas as soon as possible, the Lentransgaz enterprise has, without waiting for the results of a very important meeting of the Lithuanian and Russian leaders on 8 September, made a unilateral and arbitrary decision on the limitation of the gas supply.

Swedish Nuclear Experts Visit Ignalia Plant

LD2808174892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 27 Aug 92

[Text] This week a delegation of Swedish parliamentarians and nuclear energy experts led by Lars Hogberg, general director of the Swedish nuclear energy inspectorate, visited the Power Engineering Ministry, the

nuclear safety inspection [as heard], and the Ignalina nuclear power station.

During a meeting with Power Engineering Minister Professor Leonas Asmantas, Academician Jurgis Vilimas, head of the Lithuanian nuclear safety inspection, Povilas Vaisnius, and other republican power engineering experts, prospects for cooperation betweeen the neighboring states in improving the safety of the Ignalina nuclear power station and the training of necessary experts in Sweden were discussed.

It was noted that at present, Swedish organizational and technical assistance is so abundant that we, in our small republic with a modest staff of experts, are not managing to implement it in good time. It is essential to speed up the training of staff, making use of the proposed goodwill.